



**YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



**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.

DATA
2020

POLICY SECTOR



3
studies
on youth

- 1st Youth Barometer
- 2nd Youth Barometer
- Young people's relationship to Social Media and the Internet

- 3 Municipalities
- Number of participants: 63 (37 girls and 26 boys)
- Per Municipality: 25 in Derynia, 21 in Atheniou, 17 in Aglandjia

"Young Cities"
National
Programme



Establishment of Working Group for the development of youth work in Cyprus

1. 10 Consultations (1 was face-to-face, 9 were online)
2. Participation of a total of 130 persons
3. Participation of 3 trainers from Youth Ambassadors Team
4. Total Youth Ambassadors Team members who took part in the process: 16 persons

EU Youth
Dialogue

DATA
2020

PSYCHOSOCIAL
EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH



2018



1835



180

4033 Total number of people helped
through the programme



Τα κυριότερα θέματα που απασχόλησαν:

Managing negative sentiments (stress,
anger, concerns about Covid-19)

Relationship problems

Parenting and educating children

Mental Health (disorders, phobias, depression)

Self-esteem and self-confidence

ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΑ
2020

SOCIAL MEDIA 
facebook

26.000
followers



24,552 Total Page Likes

3.156.394 Reach

4.223.863 Impressions

94.222 Engaged Users

CONTRIBUTION TO YOUTH POLICY- MAKING



MINISTARSTVO
PROSVETE
i NAUKE
rsn.gov.rs

DATA
2020

POLICY SECTOR
National Youth Strategy



Drafting of 2nd Action
Plan 2020-2022 with
226 measures for
youth and 1st Progress
Report 2017-2019 for
the progress in the
implementation of 217
measures

Youth
Consultations

60

Organisation of 2 consultations in cooperation with the
Ministry of Education in lowland and mountain areas

Online Consultation
"Next Generation EU"

30

Participants | Submission of proposals
in 4 thematic areas

Covid-19
Working Group

33

Participants (youth organisation representatives,
young people, ONEK officers)





MEETING ON NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

One of the main objectives of the YBC, which derives from the Law on the Youth Board, is to contribute creatively to policymaking on youth related-matters, focusing on current challenges for an optimal positive impact on young people.

Since 2017, the YBC has coordinated the implementation of the National Youth Strategy (2017-2022) – the first official youth policy document in Cyprus. Among the Strategy's main principles are to ensure youth participation in decision-making on youth-related matters, and close cooperation among all public and private institutions that run youth-related projects and activities.

In order to be able to submit youth empowerment policy proposals to the state, the YBC conducts specialised surveys on the needs of youth, consultations and open discussions with young people, utilising multiple methods and structures, such as Advisory Bodies, the Youth Summit and the National Group of EU Youth Dialogue.

Moreover, the YBC participates in working groups on a national, European and international level, actively contributing to youth policymaking at all levels, going by good practices implemented around the world.

In 2020, the YBC Policy Department, which is responsible for implementing and coordinating the above, conducted the following:

SURVEYS

Surveys are a vital tool that enhance the Youth Board's work when it comes to youth policy-making, as they reveal the young people's real needs and views.

In 2020, the Youth Board, in cooperation with a research centre, conducted a quantitative study entitled "Youth-Barometer", which investigated the needs, interests and views of young people aged 14-35 years old. The survey was conducted twice in 2020, with 1,000 participants each time. The participants were selected through random sampling.

The 1st Youth-Barometer was carried out in January and February 2020 and covered various topic areas, such as education, employment, active participation, health issues, faith and religion, immigration, international relations, EU and future expectations.

The 2nd Youth-Barometer was conducted in November and December 2020, and apart from the topic areas covered in the first one, there were two additional units: Covid-19 pandemic and youth participation in democratic procedures in view of the upcoming parliamentary elections in 2021.

Following a YBC Board decision, the Youth-Barometer survey will be conducted twice annually.

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
WORKSHOP**





MEETING ON
NATIONAL
YOUTH
STRATEGY



The YBC supports youth-related surveys conducted by researchers, academic institutions and other bodies and organisations.

In 2020, Alexander College, with the contribution of YBC and other relevant organisations, carried out the survey “Young people’s relationship with social media and the internet”. The aim of the survey was to detect the level of Cypriot youths’ addiction to social media and the potential problematic use of the internet. The results have been made available to the state and all stakeholders, and should be discussed, leading to a more comprehensive policy on research, prevention, awareness-raising and solution.

The findings of the abovementioned surveys are available on the Policy Department website: <https://youthpolicy.onek.org.cy/en/>.

NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY (2017-2022)

Since the Council of Ministers decision on 18 May 2017, the Youth Board of Cyprus has been the coordinating institution, responsible for the implementation of the National Youth Strategy (2017-2022). On 22 January 2020, the YBC held a meeting with members of the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth and the Monitoring Group, in order to get informed about the implementation process of the Strategy and to coordinate the next steps.

In addition, the Youth Board drafted the following Strategy papers, which were submitted to the Council of Ministers by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth:

1. The Second Action Plan of the National Youth Strategy, which consists of the youth-related actions and projects of public services that are under implementation or are expected to be put in action in the period 2020-2022.

As with the First Action plan 2017-2019, representatives from more than 20 public services that make up the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth worked together in order to put together the measures already implemented or that are in preparation, with the aim of achieving the goals set in each NYS topic area.



MEETING ON
NATIONAL
YOUTH
STRATEGY



2. The Second Action Plan Analysis, which presents the key conclusions after the measures are examined. The report outlines the number of measures for each NYS priority/topic area, detects the Strategic priorities that have not been addressed, identifies potential weaknesses and overlaps, submits suggestions for improvement, investigates whether the measures apply to the NYS target age group or to the general population, and examines cross-sectoral cooperation requirements, budget adequacy, funding sources, and performance indicators.
3. The First Progress Report of the National Youth Strategy for the period 2017-2019, which is the interim assessment report on the Strategy. This document has been drafted with the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth and outlines the implementation progress of the measures of the First Action Plan 2017-2019.

The above documents will enhance the dialogue on the next NYS 2030, with the aim of establishing common strategic goals, which will be based on evidence and the true needs and opinions of young people.

EDUCATION MINISTER VISIT



YOUTH CONSULTATION

Youth consultations are an integral part of the National Youth Strategy implementation process, and a vital requirement for achieving the NYS vision on youth empowerment, as they give a voice to young people on how to develop and improve policies that affect them.

Consultations with young people in rural areas

In 2020, two consultation meetings were organised with young people in rural areas, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

These open meetings were attended by 60 young people from different areas, who exchanged ideas and submitted their suggestions on ways to improve their daily life, the entrepreneurial development of their areas and the support to young farmers.

The outcomes of the consultation meetings were presented by the participants themselves at a special event organised on 21 July 2020, which was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Mr Costas Kadis and the YBC President, Mr Prodromos Alambritis.

Online Consultation on “Next Generation EU” Recovery Plan

Following the adoption of the “Next Generation EU” Recovery Fund by the EU member state leaders on 21 July 2020, the YBC organised an online consultation with young people on 18 September 2020 in order to collect suggestions on reforms and actions that need to be taken, which the YBC will submit to decision-making bodies.

The online consultation was attended by 30 young people from across Cyprus, who had the opportunity to discuss and submit their proposals and suggestions for the creation of a national plan on the following four topic areas:

1. Job market, social policy, education and human capital
2. A digital era of efficiency and productivity
3. Acceleration in forming a green economy
3. New development model and economic diversification

The outcomes of the above consultations are available on the Policy Department website.

COVID-19 WORKING GROUP

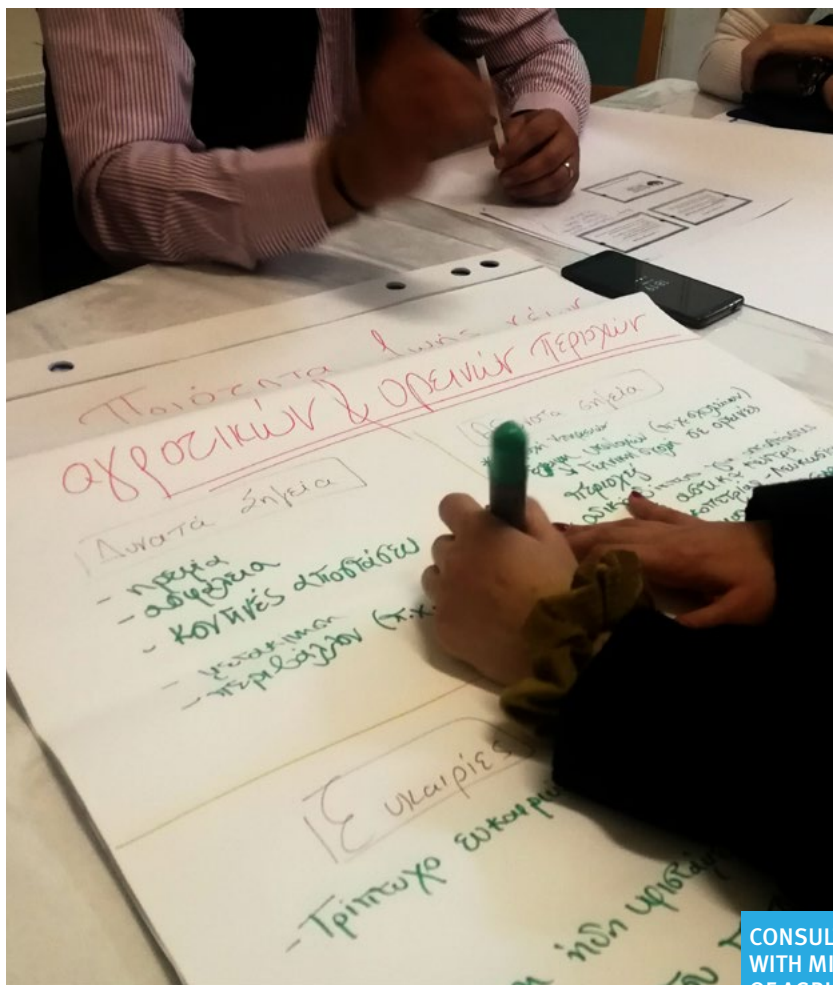
In a prompt reaction to the new conditions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the YBC formed an ad hoc Working Group that consists of representatives of youth organisations and YBC officers. The aim of the Working Group is to submit suggestions on addressing the impact of the pandemic on young people and youth organisations. The Group met online in May and June 2020.

The Group members were asked to assess the conditions for young people, record relevant good practices in Cyprus and abroad and submit post-pandemic suggestions and recommendations that will benefit young people and youth organisations.

The outcomes of the Working Group meetings have been submitted to the relevant public institutions and have been processed by YBC, in order to plan certain projects within its field of action.

The Working Group activity, recommendations and recorded good practices are described in detail on the Department's website.





CONSULTATION
WITH MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE
IN AGROS



PRESENTATION OF YOUTH
CONSULTATION RESULTS AT THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT



YOUTH WORK

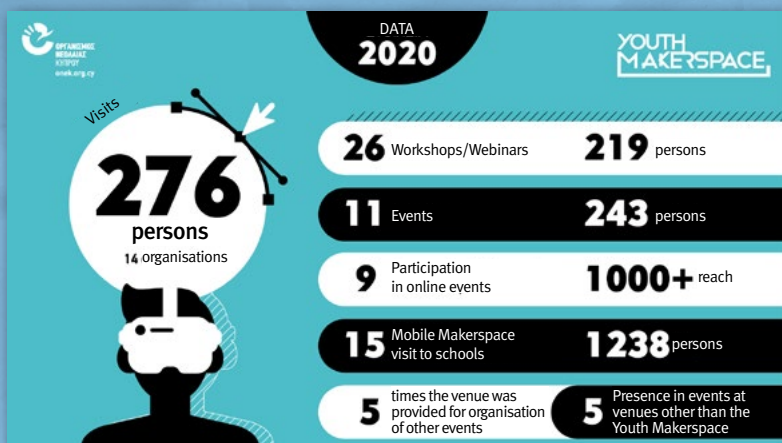
As the main responsible body on youth related matters in Cyprus, the Youth Board is putting forward a series of actions and activities on youth work development in Cyprus.

Following the visit of Council of Europe Experts to Cyprus in 2019 and their suggestions, the YBC formed a Youth Work Development Working Group in 2020. The Working Group will have a comprehensive approach to youth work-related matters and will coordinate the necessary actions to this end.

The Working Group consists of YBC representatives and two coordinating youth organisations – Cyprus Youth Council and Cyprus Youth Clubs Organisation.

The Working Group aims to draft a comprehensive road map for the application and development of high-quality youth work in Cyprus.

EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND POLICIES





**PARTICIPATORY
DIALOGUE ON
MARITIME SECURITY**

PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS ON YOUTH RELATED ISSUES

The YBC has continued its active participation in European Council Working Group meetings on youth-related issues. In 2020, the majority of the meetings were held online due to the pandemic. Hence, the Presidencies of Croatia and Germany, apart from the other priority areas set, focused on the pandemic as well. Special questionnaires were collected by all member states, investigating their views on the pandemic's effects on young people, as well as suggestions for solutions and the best ways to deal with the pandemic situation.

The priority areas of the Croatian Presidency in the first half of 2020 were: a) Enhancement of opportunities for young people from rural and remote areas, b) Awareness raising on youth-related matters through information and resources development, c) Development of the EU Youth Dialogue, d) Continuation of European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+. During the Croatian Presidency, a discussion was organised on the results of the 7th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue, which concluded with a Resolution by the Council of Ministers.

The priority areas of the German Presidency were the following: a) Youth and Democracy in Europe, b) Employment for young people in Europe, c) Response to Covid-19 and its effects, d) Discussion on European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+.

During the two Presidencies, the European Youth Summits were held, in Croatia with reduced physical presence and in Germany online.

The outcomes of the Working Groups on youth related matters and of the discussions held during the European Youth Summits were submitted to the Council of Ministers for further discussion and approval.

CYPRUS YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRES MEETING



EU YOUTH DIALOGUE

In 2020, the EU Youth Dialogue process continued on a national and international level. The thematic priority of the 7th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue was decided by the Trio Presidency Romania-Finland-Croatia, and the final results were presented during the Croatian Presidency, followed by a resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers. In Cyprus, the Dialogue procedures were held by the National Working Group, which consists of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Cyprus Youth Council, which holds the coordinating role. Ten consultation meetings took place in 2020 (one with physical presence and nine online), attended by 130 people in total. In addition, various events were organised, aiming to promote Dialogue, as well as meetings among the National Working Group members so as to plan actions and analyse the consultations' outcomes. It is worth noting that during the Dialogue process, the Youth Ambassadors participated in training events led by three trainers. The Youth Ambassadors groups consist of 16 members from different regions of Cyprus with active participation. The Youth Board of Cyprus funds 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 Cyprus Youth Council.

YOUTH WIKI

EU online platform Youth Wiki, which provides information on youth policies and activities in all member states, has reached its fifth year of operation.

During its five years of operation, Youth Wiki has helped both the EU and its member states take informed decisions that address the challenges faced by young people. Youth Wiki aims to offer reliable and accurate information and to act as a valuable tool for youth workers.

In 2020, apart from the promotional and anniversary activities, the YBC, which acts as a national correspondent and as the institution

responsible for youth policies in Cyprus, collected, renewed and published information related to the policies that are applied in Cyprus. To this end, the YBC was assisted by the Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth.

Moreover, in 2020, the EU drafted comparative reports on the topic areas Education & Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship, and Youth Work, which are available on the Youth Wiki website.

PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH (CDEJ)

In 2020, the YBC participated in two meetings of the Steering Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe, which were held online due to the pandemic, as well as the online meetings of the Presidency of the Committee, in which the YBC Executive Director is a member. The topic areas discussed in 2020 within the context of the Council of Europe were: 1) New Youth Strategy by the Youth Department of the CoE, 2) Revitalising Democracy, 3) Human Rights Accessible to Youth, 4) Youth Work, 5) The Youth and Climate Change, 6) Youth and AI, 7) Minority Rights.

European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy - EKYP of the Council of Europe

As the national correspondent of Cyprus to the Centre, the YBC contributed to the work of the European Knowledge Centre by collecting and disseminating data and exchanging good practices on youth-related policies.

In 2020, the YBC prepared a revised country sheet, which outlines Cyprus' youth policies and can be found on the EKYP website.

Due to the pandemic, the EKYP's work focused on data collection, study and analysis with regard to the pandemic's effects on youth, youth organisations, and youth work development.



**SIGNING OF
MEMORANDUM
OF COOPERATION
WITH OXYGONO**

UNITED NATIONS

The UN youth policies and initiatives are taken into serious consideration by the YBC in its National Youth Strategy, as well as in other policies and projects. In 2020 no seminars or forums were organised by the UN, due to the pandemic.

COMMONWEALTH

The YBC pays its annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth Program for Youth, and participates in its various youth-related programs. It also financially supports the participation of young Cypriots in the Commonwealth Youth Forum. In 2020, the pandemic had a significant impact on the Commonwealth Program for Youth, and neither the Commonwealth Youth Forum nor other events were held. In 2020 the annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth was 31.735 BP. The contribution is determined by the organisers and the amount is usually fixed, with small fluctuations.

MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION

Aiming at building mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with other institutions, organisations and universities in Cyprus, which will benefit not only the youth but also society as a whole, in 2020 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).

MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY YOUTH COUNCILS

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

The total number of Municipal and Community Youth Councils in 2020 was 37.

In 2020, the YBC continued providing support to Municipal and Community Youth Councils through consultation and advice on their role, as well as by funding their activities through the Youth Initiatives Project. In 2020 the YBC received applications from 17 Municipal and Community Youth Councils, with a total budget of €50,785. 14 applications were approved and funded, for a total amount of €37,082. Additional financial support was granted through the YBC ReCOVer20 project.



SIGNING OF
MEMORANDUM OF
COOPERATION AT
PETRIDES MUSEUM



YOUNG CITIES

In 2020, the Youth Board of Cyprus and National Betting Authority launched the Young Cities project, which aims at youth empowerment for a positive impact on local communities.

Through the project, young people have the opportunity to develop modern skills and enhance active citizenship and self-development through active interventions in their communities/municipalities, which will bring positive change to their lives. The project has the potential to have a multiplying effect on the social environment of young people.

The method “think and do” has been applied for the development of the project in the following structure: a) development of a youth platform, where young people were called to identify the challenges they face in their cities, exchange ideas and submit suggestions, b) the young people are called to “act” putting their ideas in action, working together with other stakeholders.

Three municipalities that are located near the green line were selected for the pilot implementation of the project (Athienou, Aglantzia, Derynia). In each Municipality, a group of young people aged 14-30 was formed, who attended trainings on topics related to leadership and creativity by experienced trainers and youth facilitators. The total duration of trainings was 10 weeks.

The project meetings were attended by a total of 63 young people in 2020 (37 female and 26 male participants). More specifically, in Derynia there were 25 participants, in Athienou 21 and in Aglantzia 17. The age range of the participants was 19-35 with the average age being 27.5 years old. Three preparatory meetings were held in the three municipalities, followed by 23 meetings in total (9 in Derynia, 9 in Athienou and 4 in Aglantzia).

The following goals were achieved by the project:

- Organisation of discussions for exchange of ideas and workshops on awareness raising and training of young people on matters that are related to their local community.
- Awareness raising among local communities and municipalities



YOUNG CITIES
PRESENTATION

on the positive impact of youth participation and creativity through information activities

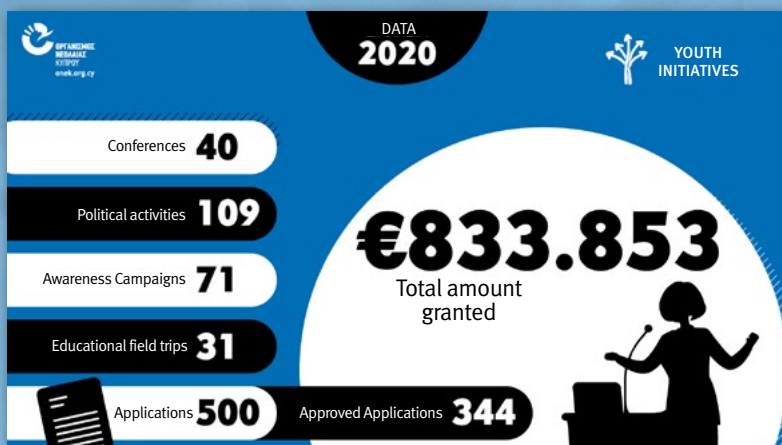
- Development of an action plan on applying the suggested actions in the municipality
- Creation of mechanisms (technological tools) and methods (youth trainings) that will safeguard the sustainability of the project.

It is noted that the project is run by a contracting agent following a public procurement, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.



YOUNG CITIES PRESENTATION

PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES funding opportunities



WHAT DID INSPIRE YOU THE MOST DURING THIS FORUM?



60 TCP FORUM
SOCIAL
INNOVATION
FOR SOCIAL
INCLUSION



WORLD CAFÉ



Erasmus+

YOUTHWORK



AGIA SKEPI THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY



Agia Skepi is a rehabilitation program for persons struggling with long-term drug addiction, they stay here 24 hours a day.



The therapeutic session last 1'30 hours, so the rest of the time has to be "spend" wisely



Charis Papadopoulos

The production of biological products combines very nicely with what we are doing here. The organic food addresses the matter "drug free"



"drug free" in humans, in food, everywhere...



ayia zénn bio

Our social business support our main project, the drug rehabilitation.

"This is something we live very intense everytime someone manages to put behind him the drug use"



Erasmus+

YOUTHWORK

YOUTH INITIATIVES PROJECT

The "Youth Initiatives Project" funds activities organised by young people and youth organisations. It aims at promoting active citizenship through volunteerism by motivating young people to have an active role in cultural, sport, political and social activities in Cyprus.

In 2020, there were 3 application submission rounds addressing the following beneficiary categories:

1. Informal Youth Groups
2. Young individuals up to 35 years old

SISTEMA CYPRUS

I came to donate this instrument. And some books.

WE NEED TO ENGAGE OUR PUBLIC SO THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO HELP US

100 VOLUNTEERS THAT HELP US AND SHARE OUR DREAMS. YOU CAN'T FORGIVE, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN THE CAUSE

SISTEMA CYPRUS

The response of the society is motivating us

A MUSIC SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF KIDS AND YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH MUSIC

2018

WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT WITH THE SMILES OF CHILDREN, THEIR PARENTS AND OTHER PEOPLE AROUND

SCHOLARSHIP

WE HAVE OVER 200 CHILDREN, REGISTERED (AND MORE STUDIES IN THE WAITING LIST) - MIGRANTS - REFUGEES - ORPHANS

FUNDING IS NEVER EASY, AND YOU NEED TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO

TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES 2018

OPENDANCE MEDIANE KIPRIOTI

Erasmus+ YOUTHWORK

60 TCP FORUM
SOCIAL
INNOVATION
FOR SOCIAL
INCLUSION

MY UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AFTER THESE DAYS?



IDEA INNOVATION CENTER



3. Youth organisations with proven action on a national level
4. Youth organisations with local action
5. Youth Clubs
6. Youth Coordinating Bodies

In 2020, 500 applications were submitted to the Project, requesting the total amount of €1,691,285. Of those, 344 applications were approved with a budget of €833.853. The funded activities were 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 of €350,000. Meanwhile, the project usually supports Greek language courses and programmes that promote Cyprus history and culture for the Young Overseas Cypriots (NEPOMAK). This project was not implemented in 2020 due to the pandemic.

ReCOVer20 PROJECT

In an attempt to address the effects from the Covid-19 pandemic, the YBC launched the ReCOVer20 funding project. The project aims to provide funding for activities, projects and events that aim to tackle the negative effects of the pandemic, while promoting solidarity and active support to affected individuals, groups and communities.

The main objective of the project is to mobilise young people and encourage them to take action, design and plan their own initiatives in the fields of culture, prevention, awareness raising and in tackling psychosocial and other problems that resulted from the pandemic.

There were two rounds of applications addressing the beneficiary categories of Youth Initiatives.

177 applications were submitted in total, requesting the amount of €815,476. 86 applications were approved, the total funding of which reached €266,151. The approved projects and activities were related to innovative activities, adjusted to the new conditions that have arisen since the pandemic.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME ERASMUS+ YOUTH

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

All funds that were granted to the YBC for the Erasmus+ Youth Programme by the European Commission were fully absorbed in 2020.

More specifically, 228 applications were submitted in 2020, of which 69 were approved, based on the available budget. From the approved submissions, 53 involved youth mobility projects (33 youth exchanges and 20 youth workers mobility projects), 7 were strategic partnerships and 3 were Creativity partnership projects (under Action 2 which was supported by the EU during the third submission cycle in 2020 as a response to the pandemic situation), while 6 projects related to Structural Dialogue (4 national and 2 international activities).

As far as the 2020 Mobility Projects are concerned, participants reached 1,469, whereas the number of youth workers was 635.

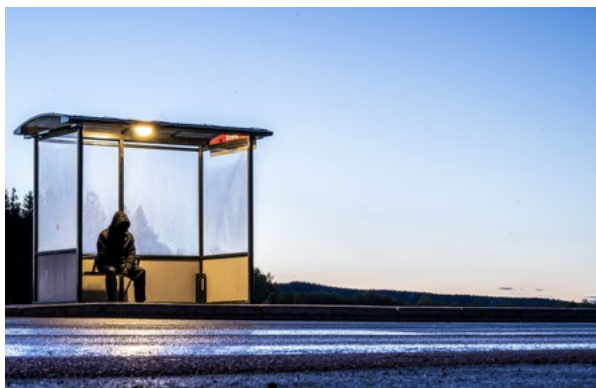
The 2020 beneficiaries were non-governmental / non-profit organisations from across Cyprus, youth organisations, informal youth groups, universities, private organisations, etc.

It should be noted that the pandemic had a severe impact on the implementation of the approved projects, as well as on mobility. Therefore, the completion deadline for the majority of the projects was extended. Moreover, problems occurred with the projects that were running when the restrictions were imposed by the governments. Nevertheless, solutions were found by the National Agency, and in some cases, additional financial support was provided, in order for the running projects to be completed without further complications.

In 2020, the Agency organised or participated in various events of different topics, especially adjusted to the Covid-19 restrictive measures. Most of the events were online and enhanced



PHOTOGRAPHY
EXHIBITION





BE ACTIVE
2020



interactivity, so as to encourage and facilitate active youth engagement. The main information and promotional event was the 4th annual “Erasmus Festival”, which was organised online in the context of #ErasmusDays2020 celebrations, in cooperation with the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. The main slogan of the 2020 Erasmus Festival was “Erasmus+ Moving Forward”, which aimed to spread a positive message on the constant development and opportunities offered by Erasmus+, even during the pandemic. The Erasmus+Virtual Festival was held on 15-17 October and its opening ceremony, which was attended by the heads of the Erasmus+ National Agencies in Cyprus and the head of the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, was broadcasted live by state broadcaster CyBC. The events included online discussions and lectures on various topics related to the new Erasmus+ project that will run in the period 2021-2027, the closing ceremony, which was also broadcasted live by the CyBC, as well as a TV quiz show and a gig. In addition, video testimonials by the project beneficiaries were presented, two online contests were held, along with a broad information campaign on all social media, TV channels, radio stations, printed and electronic media. During the online discussion “Erasmus+ Time to Move Forward”, project beneficiaries and a National Agency officer talked about the past, the present and future of Erasmus+.

The National Agency had an active presence on social and conventional media throughout the year, offering 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 to organise various online events, information talks, education exhibitions, career expos, and events that promote good practices.



NEW ERASMUS+ WEBSITE

In 2020, preparations began for the new website of the Erasmus+ National Agency. The website will present Erasmus+ for the period 2021-2027. Young people from across Cyprus are involved in preparing the website. The website is expected to be ready and launched in the first quarter of 2021.

TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – ERASMUS+

Transnational Partnerships are educational events or seminars that promote Erasmus+ priorities and objectives. Through these partnerships, Agencies and participants develop cooperation and exchange good practices, amplifying the social impact of the programme. These activities are addressed at people who are involved in the field of youth, being members of a youth organisation or an informal group of young people, and who organise activities (e.g. seminars, forums, trainings) addressing specific target-groups. In 2020, 140 people participated in Erasmus+ training activities and

seminars in Cyprus and abroad, which were held either online or with physical presence.

Moreover, the Youth Board of Cyprus, being the Erasmus+ Youth National Agency, organised the following three activities in Cyprus:

- T.O.T.E.E. II: It was hosted in Cyprus in the beginning of March 2020, with the participation of 23 trainers from Youth@Work strategic partner countries. The event aimed at informing trainers on the Strategy objectives and at developing relevant educational proposals and activities.
- Towards Collaborative Practice Forum: Social Innovation for Social Inclusion: It was organised online and was attended by 70 participants from 17 countries. The Forum's aim was to train participants on the basic principles of social innovation and its role in social inclusion, to present the activities of Cypriot social enterprises and facilitate networking among attendants for future cooperation on common Erasmus+ projects.
- Leadership as a vehicle for youth participation: it was organised online in December 2020 and was attended by 24 participants who explored the notions of leadership and participation, and talked about how they can empower young people and encourage active social participation among youth.

In addition, the Agency had an active participation in the Strategic Partnership Youth@Work and New Waves of Youth Participation that promote youth employability, youth entrepreneurship and participation in decision-making bodies, provide training and skills upscaling of Erasmus+ beneficiaries, and facilitate the development of substantial cooperation and synergies with other institutions and stakeholders beyond the youth sector.

LIFESTORIES

The #LifeStories initiative ran for a second time in 2020 under Erasmus+ Youth. Its aim was to promote real stories that would raise awareness, inspire and empower young people. Adjusting to the unprecedented pandemic conditions, #LifeStories focused on various instances of social solidarity, showcasing examples of social solidarity actions

that were expressed in Cyprus during the difficult conditions of the pandemic. Stories on a wide range of topics were presented, such as culture, technology, volunteerism, science and social responsibility. The shared stories gave the opportunity to young people to identify relevant issues in their communities and take similar initiatives to express social solidarity and support.

During the campaign, certain actions were organised, especially adjusted to the restrictions of the pandemic, which promoted new role models for young people, shared stories and inspiration. Among the organisations which shared their social solidarity video stories on social media were the Fairytale Museum, Ypsonas Municipality, RISE Centre of Excellence, Save Our Food Project, Rescue Team 1, Science Hoaxes, SKE Avgorou, Cyprus Refugee Council, COVID 19 Response Team, Association of Filipino Organisations in Cyprus, Ormidia Cultural Group RODI and Cyprus Girl Guides Youth Council. The scheduled presentations at schools, universities, organisations and other venues could not be held with physical presence, but were instead held online. Moreover, YBC organised an online workshop for young people on dealing with the pandemic's impact. The campaign was promoted widely through press releases, online posts, interviews on YBC TV programme Up To You(th) and all social media channels of the YBC and Erasmus+ Youth National Agency.

EURODESK ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

Eurodesk aims at providing 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, on the European Youth Portal through its “Ask A Question” service, or on the telephone numbers 22402613/641. Eurodesk is co-funded by the European Commission, it operates in 36 European countries, and in Cyprus it is run by the YBC.



BE ACTIVE
2020

INFORMATION ON MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

In 2020, Eurodesk Cyprus participated in online festivals, information events of Erasmus+ National Agencies, various events organised by youth organisations, universities and other institutions, where it provided 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 normally provides information on the new EU initiative “Discover EU” which addresses 18-year-old people. However, due to the pandemic this initiative was inactive in 2020. It also provides information on the new EU programme “European Solidarity Corps”, which is open to people aged 18-30.

EXPANSION OF THE MULTIPLIERS NETWORK

Eurodesk Cyprus announces an annual call for interest by the Network’s multipliers/partners, aiming at supporting and promoting the services offered by Eurodesk. In 2020, Eurodesk continued its cooperation with the five NGOs that operate as info points on European youth mobility matters, together with the YBC.

NATIONAL WEBSITE

The Network continued to upgrade its national website, eurodesk.onek.org.cy, where one can find all kinds of information on mobility opportunities and the Network's events, as well as stories and personal accounts of people who have participated in European projects.

EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN “TIME TO MOVE”

“Time to Move” is the largest European campaign organised by the Eurodesk network, which is held every October. It brings together a wide range of events and activities addressing young people, aiming at informing them on mobility opportunities. In 2020, Eurodesk Cyprus, YBC Youth Information Centres and the youth organisations which operate as Eurodesk multipliers adjusted the campaign to the new conditions. Both online and physical events were organised, such as tree planting, workshops on recycling, life skills workshops, a treasure hunt, quizzes, online presentations and information activities at universities, preparation of video testimonials, dissemination on social media, and an interview on the Up To You(th) TV programme. The “Time to Move” campaign also participated in the Erasmus Festival, which was organised by the two Erasmus+ Agencies in Cyprus: CYB and the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. At the Festival, the Campaign presented the photo competition “From your Neighbourhood to Europe”.

All the events can be found on the website: <https://eurodesk.onek.org.cy/timetomove2020/>

PHOTO COMPETITION “FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD TO EUROPE”

In the context of the “Time to Move” Campaign, the Youth Information Centres (YICs) organised the national photo competition “From your Neighbourhood to Europe”. The competition aimed at encouraging young people aged 15-30 who live in Cyprus but also Europe to capture various aspects of their daily life, trips, explorations,



MOVE PHOTO
EXHIBITION





MOVE PHOTO
EXHIBITION



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.

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. In 2020, the website was redesigned and its content was upgraded and updated completely, with the contribution of all Eurodesk Network users.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME “EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS”

European Solidarity Corps is an EU funding programme which offers young European citizens aged 18-30 opportunities for volunteerism, work or internship in their country or abroad, or even to implement their own solidarity projects on a local level. It is a special programme by which young people Gain through Giving, expressing their love to people and the environment.

The Corps supports a wide range of activities and programmes that relate to natural disasters prevention, assistance to 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 2020, 34 applications were submitted, out of which 20 were Volunteering Project applications, 11 concerned Solidarity projects, two were related to Volunteering Partnerships and one was for a traineeship.

30 applications were approved, as three Volunteering Projects did not achieve the required score during the qualitative evaluation, while one Solidarity Project was rejected during the eligibility check.

Due to the travel restrictions imposed because of the pandemic, the National Agency put extra effort into promoting the Solidarity Projects in 2020, this being the programme that funds young people's projects on a local level. The need for Solidarity Projects becomes all the more important in light of the pandemic's effects. Solidarity Projects require the participation of a group of at least five people who commit to act as a source of positive change in their local community. Therefore, there was a targeted promotional campaign on social media, along with six, two-day online seminars with more than 100 participants from Youth Clubs, local authorities, youth organisations and other NGOs that work with young people with limited opportunities. As a result of this effort, the applications increased from one in 2019 to 11 in 2020.

Based on the data from the approved projects for 2020, 271 young volunteers are expected to participate in projects in Cyprus or abroad. Among the 2020 applicants are informal groups of young people, local authorities, NGOs and youth organisations from various areas of Cyprus.

So far, 819 young Cypriots have expressed interest in participating in the Programme through the European Youth Portal, while in 2020 there were 194 new registrations. Based on the data provided, 30.9% of the registered people are men and 69.1% are women. 65% are aged 17-25, while 35% are over 25 years old. As far as their interests are concerned, 10.3% are interested in volunteerism, 9% in internships and traineeships and 78.9% in both.

Moreover, in 2020, the number of accredited Cypriot organisations reached 31, with six new organisations receiving the Quality Label (which corresponds to the Erasmus+ accreditation), one organisation applying for it and two applying organisations being rejected. 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 assume 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 (TEC), the National Agency organised 10 trainings in 2020 (On-arrival trainings



MOVE PHOTO
EXHIBITION



and Mid-term evaluations and Training for organisations that have recently been awarded the Quality Label). The first two trainings addressed foreign volunteers who volunteered in Cyprus for a period longer than two months, aiming at forming an informal volunteers' network, an environment that would encourage learning, and evaluating 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, technical and practical knowledge on development, implementation and management of their projects. On 16-18 December 2020, the annual meeting of the Quality Labelled organisations and the Cypriot volunteers who participated in Volunteering Projects in 2018-2020 was held online. The aim of the meeting was to review the year and the first implementation period of the programme. There was a discussion and feedback, while the attendants had the chance to have a direct dialogue with the National Agency. The National Agency informed attendants on the new period and promoted the creation of a pool of mutual support that would offer exchange of information and good practices. The meeting with the volunteers also aimed at informing them on new useful opportunities, helping them evaluate their experience from participating in the programme and provide feedback to the National Agency, while exploring and capitalising on the skills and knowledge they have acquired.

During the pandemic and the restrictive measures, the National Agency supported the organisations and the volunteers in Cyprus in every possible way. The meetings and trainings were adjusted accordingly, the majority of them being moved online. There was daily communication through various channels, while personal and group meetings were regularly held on matters that concerned the beneficiaries, the volunteers, as well as potential applicants. During the Christmas period, a National Agency officer visited the young volunteers who were in Cyprus, gave them presents and showed direct support.

The European Solidarity Corps also participated in all Erasmus+ events, offering information on the opportunities it provides.



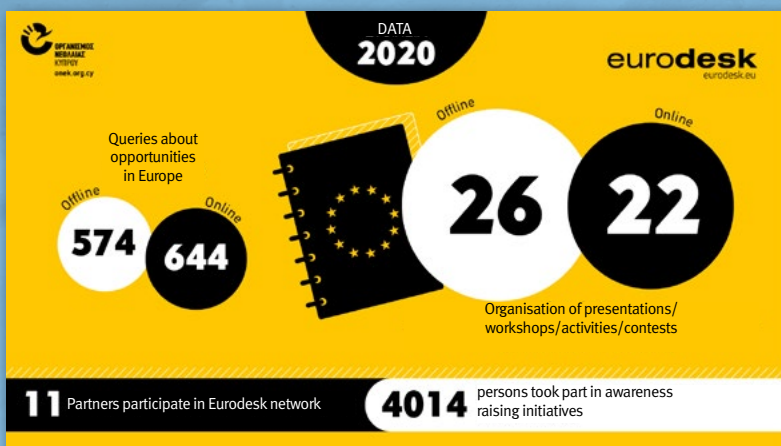
ΕΚΘΕΣΗ
ΔΙΑΓΩΝΙΣΜΟΥ
ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑΣ
MOVE

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 2020, these events were attended by 32 people in Cyprus and abroad.

Since 2020, the Cyprus National Agency has been participating in Strategic Partnerships on: 1) social inclusion, 2) youth workers' training. The Strategic Partnerships are international projects that aim at developing, exchanging and applying innovative practices, as well as implementing common initiatives that promote cooperation, cooperative learning and experience exchange on a European level. As the National Agency for the European Solidarity Corps, the YBC organised nine Inspiring Mentors online meetings, which gave the opportunity to 25 people to become volunteer mentors on ESC projects, enhancing their skills to this end. During the annual meeting, which was held online at the end of 2020, eight people had the opportunity to contact representatives of Quality Labelled organisations and talk about potential cooperation. Through online activities they had the chance to get to know each other. Hence, most mentors accepted cooperation with the organisations, leading to an increase in the number of mentors in Cyprus.

ENTRE- PRENEURSHIP



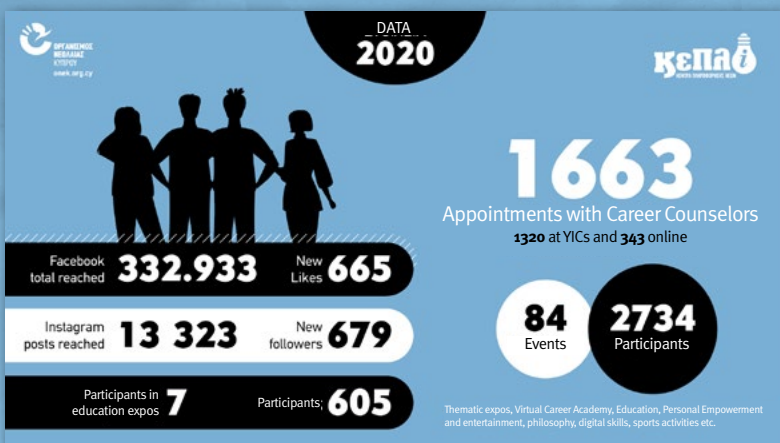


SCHEME FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

The Evaluation Committee had an irregular meeting in December 2020 and reviewed the applications that were referred by the Ministry's Objections Committee.

INFORMATION





EDUCATION
AND CAREER

YOUTH INFORMATION CENTRES (YIC)

Youth Information Centres (YIC) are a YBC project which aims at providing comprehensive information services on matters related to the interests of young people in a modern, safe and friendly environment. All YICs operate in line with the standards of the European Youth Information Centres and the information provided is aligned to the European Youth Information Charter of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA). In addition, YICs operate as Eurodesk Cyprus contact points.

Further objectives of YICs are to provide young people with general information on topics of their interest, facilitating their social inclusion as independent individuals, and helping them tackle life challenges. These objectives are achieved through information and counselling services.

In 2020, YICs organised 84 events, of which 56 were held physically at YIC venues, and 35 were held online. YICs were quick to adjust to the new conditions imposed by movement restrictions. The topics of the events/workshops were promptly adjusted and the necessary planning and technical arrangements were made accordingly.

In 2020, the YICs organised skill development workshops, talks and

discussions on education and studies, workshops on studies, social and psychological development. Furthermore, the YICs participated in festivals, education fairs, school events and presentations organised by third parties. The main topics of the YIC events and activities were Employment, Mobility, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship and Education. The events, which were held either online or at YIC premises, were attended by 2,734 participants (1,472 with physical presence and 1,262 online).

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT SUMMER SCHOOLS

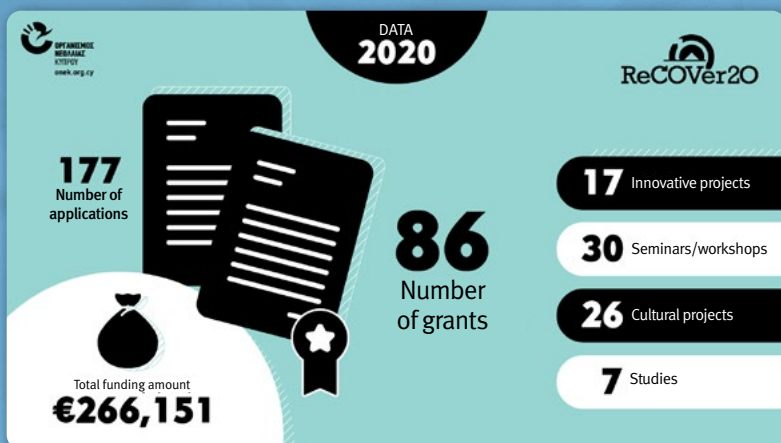
The Youth Information Centres in Nicosia, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos organise annual Student Empowerment Summer Schools for high-school students, which have become a successful and anticipated annual event.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, and keeping participants' safety as a high priority, the YICs held the Student Empowerment Summer School online. The programme was versatile and interesting, as it offered workshops on emotions management, photography, creation of an online game and other exciting topics. The online school's duration was 10 days and participants acquired valuable experience and skills, enhanced their interpersonal skills and had the opportunity to become acquainted with new fields. The online event was a challenge for both the YICs and participants, but it turned out to be a great success, as it enriched participants with additional digital skills that might be helpful in their future.



EDUCATION
AND CAREER

COUNSELLING SERVICES





CAREER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Career Counselling Services is a YBC project which offers services and guidance to young people of various ages and needs on matters related to academic studies, career and personal development. It addresses school and university students, young job seekers and young professionals. The services provided are offered free of charge and revolve around the following four action pillars:

1) **Personalised meetings with Career Counsellors**

The personalised meetings are arranged between YBC career counsellors and school students, university students and young people. The personal meetings assist young people on various matters, such as school subject selection, public university applications, information on studies in Cyprus and abroad, CV drafting, educational and professional choices, etc. The meetings are held at the Youth Information Centres.

In 2020, 1,663 personal meetings between YBC counsellors and young people were held. Due to the new Covid-19 restrictions, the majority of the services were offered online, hence, 343 of the abovementioned personal meetings were held online.

2) Career Test

Career Test is a valuable supportive tool for counsellors, which facilitates their individualised approach to the needs of young people based on their interests and skills. It can be taken by school students, university students, as well as other young people.

The test helps young people improve their self-awareness, by identifying their interests, personality traits, skills and talents, enabling them to take more informed decisions regarding their academic and professional path.

3) Professional Skills Development Workshops

A third pillar of Career Counselling Services is the organisation of soft skills development workshops for young people who are in search for work, as well as for young professionals. 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 (e.g. leadership and decision-making, emotional intelligence, presentation and communication, etc.).

The skills development workshops “Stay on Target” which were organised in March 2020 during the lockdown were eventually held online with a large number of participants.

4) Career Academies

YBC Career Academies are one or two-day events which offer comprehensive training on career-related topics by leading trainers and keynote speakers.

Participants have the opportunity to attend intensive trainings and inspirational speeches by young professionals or other speakers from the business environment. They also participate actively in experiential workshops. Through their active participation, they get the chance to learn about and exchange ideas on best practices, to network and to develop on a personal and professional level.



ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ
ΚΑΙ ΚΑΡΙΕΡΑ



VIRTUAL CAREER ACADEMY

Due to the March 2020 lockdown, Career Academy that was supposed to be held on 22-23 March had to be cancelled a couple of days before the event. Nevertheless, the Career Counselling Services adjusted to the new circumstances and organised the Virtual Career Academy on 9-12 December 2020 with more than 300 attendees. The event consisted of CV-drafting workshops, a panel discussion by professional experts on successful job interviews, information on the future digital needs, and more workshops, lectures and discussions that helped participants prepare for the job market.



GET
CONNECTED
FAIR 2020

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Help Line 1410 & E-Counselling

The Help Line 1410 is contacted by young people in search of responsible answers to daily life matters, but also more complex issues such as addictive substances, sexuality issues, eating disorders, etc. 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 1410 website can be found at www.onek.org.cy. It deals with the same issues and follows the same principles and ethics as the 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.

The two services received more than 2,018 calls in 2020 (1,985 by phone and 33 online). During the pandemic, a special line was introduced for students who studied abroad, which received 41 calls. The majority of callers were women, yet with a mere 0.6% difference. As far as age is concerned, most of the callers were adults aged over 35 years old, followed by young people aged 26-35. The main topics raised by callers were related to stress, negative emotions (depression, disappointment, etc.), Covid-19, relationship problems, mental health issues, self-confidence and self-esteem.

As in previous years, some issues that required further consideration had to do with 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, sex relationships or marriages), (b) substance abuse problems, (c) domestic violence, (d) antisocial/ delinquent behaviour, (e) any other issue of concern.

PROTASI CS served 180 people in 2020, 77.8% of whom were women. 1,092 meetings were conducted in 2020. 190 interventions were held face to face, and 56 were held online. More specifically, the meetings in 2020 were as follows: 90.5% personal, 2.7% couple and 1.6% family meetings (with both parents and children). As far as the cases’ development is concerned, 35 cases were interrupted (19.4%), 74 cases completed the process (41.1%) while 57 cases were in progress and are expected to be completed in 2021 (31.7%). How to manage stress and negative feelings was the main issue, relating to 74 cases. The second most popular issue was personal empowerment, which was raised in 53 cases. Relationship problems (sexual, love) came next with 48 cases, followed by other negative

feelings (depression, disappointment) raised in 43 cases. When it comes to demographic details, 60% of the people contacted the Nicosia-Larnaka-Famagusta complex, whereas the remaining 40% contacted the Limassol-Paphos complex. 22.7% were teenagers (26-30 years old) and 21.6% were adults (31-35 years old), whereas 26.1% were over 36 years old. 53.8% of callers stated that they were not in a long-term relationship during counselling. As far as their educational background is concerned, a significant proportion (41.1%) were college graduates (3 years+) and 40% had a full-time job, while 26.1% stated that they were unemployed.

“MIKRI ARKTOS” PSYCHOSOCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The aim of the “Mikri Arktos” Psychosocial Empowerment Programme is personality development, improvement of social skills, confidence boosting and personal empowerment that will enable individuals to deal with daily challenges successfully. Through psychoeducational groups and experiential workshops, young participants have the chance to discover and develop their personal skills, identify and overcome their weaknesses, discuss their concerns and search for solutions.

The programme addresses young people, aged 16-35 years old, who wish to participate individually, as well as groups and organisations. “Mikri Arktos” organised 58 Group Psychological and Social Empowerment Trainings in 2020, which were attended by 479 people. Moreover, 73 fragmented activities were organised and were attended by 1,356 people. The topics that were discussed mostly related to human rights, communication skills, self-confidence and self-esteem, stress management and addressing negative feelings caused by the pandemic.



GET
CONNECTED
FAIR 2020



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



DATA
2020


The STEAMers
PROGRAM



THEMATIC AREAS:
Robotics • Programming • Art
Music • Creative Writing • Theatre

WORKSHOPS

8 Limassol **40** Participants

56 Paphos **349** Participants

60 Nicosia **312** Participants





THE
STEAMERS
2020

THE STEAMERS

In 2020, the STEAMers programme tackled a large number of challenges brought on by Covid-19 and its impact on education. In many cases, the programmes were forced to cease operation, following the protocols issued by the Ministry of Health. Hence, the Youth Board of Cyprus decided to implement them online, through distant learning, as a way of adjusting to the participants' expectations and needs.

Distant online learning was implemented in all districts. In Paphos, 67 workshops were running in the beginning of 2020 with 392 participants. Out of these, 35 were moved to online platforms, including all dance, drama, piano, creative writing and art workshops. In Limassol, 10 out of the initial 16 workshops were moved online, with 75 participants, among them, drama, robotics, piano, guitar and creative writing workshops. In Nicosia there were 24 online workshops, with 90 students.

The steadfast aim of the programme is to provide further opportunities to all participants, offering online learning to as many young people as possible, until we are able to return to physical learning.

Online learning was provided through the ZOOM and TEAMS platforms. Children had the chance keep on track with their learning through the digital tools. The main objective of the online workshops

was for students to enhance their skills and talents, preventing potential boredom and depression caused by the lockdown.

Apart from online learning, during the lockdown the YBC intensified the online promotion of STEAMers with targeted posts and campaigns. For instance, in April 2020, when movement restrictions were at their peak, the YBC promoted 15 Tips & Suggestions on Creative Activities at Home. Moreover, the new STEAMers website was promoted online, encouraging people to find out more information about the online workshops and apply for them.

Undoubtedly, online learning opens up new opportunities in the fields of education and training, stretching beyond physical and distant barriers. At times like these, online learning is a valuable tool, not an enemy, despite all the challenges that may arise. The YBC intensified its efforts towards providing equal opportunities for all young people in this new reality.

YOUTH MAKERSPACE LARNAKA

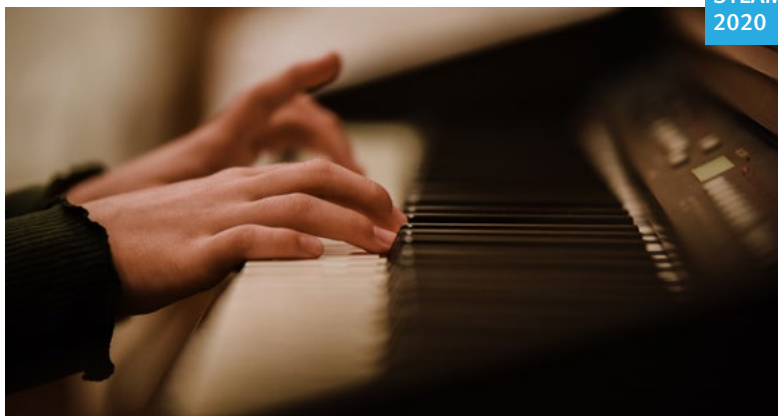
Youth Makerspace Larnaka is an innovative project and is unique in Cyprus. It was launched by the Youth Board of Cyprus on 10 March 2018. It provides young people with access to high-quality and state-of-the-art equipment for developing prototypes and implementing their business ideas.

Youth Makerspace Larnaka is hosted in a renovated emblematic building, which was once 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 the YBC, engage in a creative 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, among others.

Youth Makerspace Larnaka is open for children and young people aged 6 to 35, as well as groups of young people, educational institutions, schools and more. All the events, equipment and activities of the Youth Makerspace are offered free of charge to all young people.

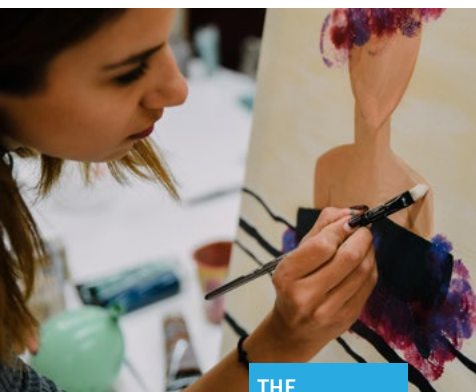


THE
STEAMERS
2020

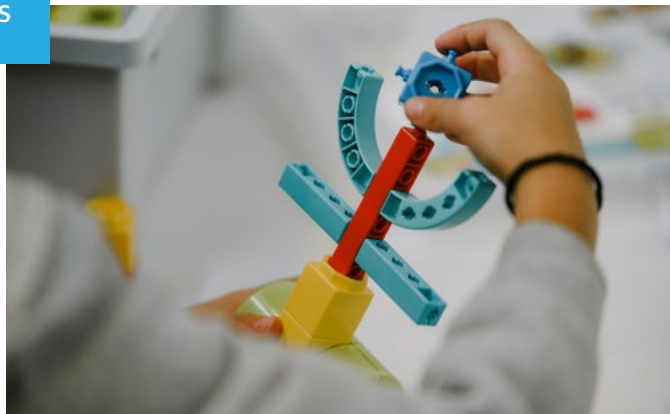


In 2020, the Youth Makerspace organised numerous educational activities and workshops. The venue was visited by 276 people and 14 groups.

Following the Covid-19-related restrictions on physical presence, in 2020 the Youth Makerspace organised 26 online workshops for makers, which provided training on how to use the available equipment. Additionally, Makerspace participated in nine online innovation and technology exhibitions and events. Eleven events



THE
STEAMERS
2020



on new technologies were organised at the Makerspace venue, following all the health protocols. Furthermore, the venue was used by youth NGOs, universities and other youth-related institutions for their own events.

It is worth mentioning that in 2020, Youth Makerspace Larnaka created its own educational material, aiming at youth empowerment. The material addresses students of primary and secondary education, encouraging them to engage with STEAM-related creative activities. The curriculum is based on problem-solving and design-thinking methodologies, while it enhances 21st century skills. Through the workshop, students develop their critical thinking, problem-solving skills, creative thinking, communication and cooperation skills, etc.

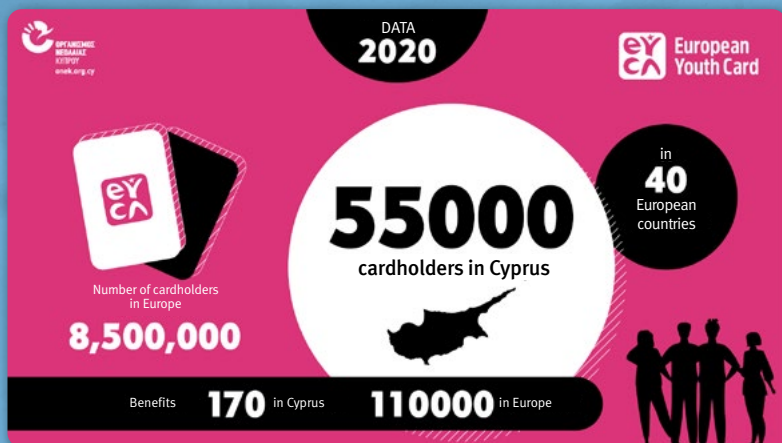
MOBILE MAKERSPACE

Following the success and popularity of Youth Makerspace Larnaka since it was established in 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. Yet it focuses more on young people with limited opportunities, who live in isolated or distant areas and do not have the chance to visit Youth Makerspace Larnaka. Mobile Makerspace visits schools and organisations in rural or distant areas and offers workshops using their technological equipment. The workshops are held by specially-trained professionals who carry out the course curricula that were specially prepared and designed by YBC. Through Mobile Makerspace, the YBC aims at sharing these technologies, making them accessible to a larger audience, so as to inspire young people and encourage their further engagement with new technologies.

In 2020, the Mobile Makerspace unit paid 15 visits to elementary schools around Cyprus, reaching out to 1,238 pupils, who got the chance to see and use the equipment through technology workshops.

OTHER BENEFITS TO YOUNG PEOPLE





RENEWAL OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE YOUTH BOARD
AND LARNACA MUNICIPALITY
FOR YOUTH MAKERSPACE

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 and 40 European countries. Following the Covid-19 outbreak, the YBC intensified its efforts to increase the benefits for young people, many of which were offered online. Hence the benefits rose to 170 in 2020). A large number of cardholders participated in surveys on the new needs and suggestions related to the pandemic, seminars, etc. In 2020, a new mobile App was created, which allowed young people to apply for a European Youth Card, get informed on the benefits and redeem them directly.

In addition, the YBC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, issued a free Student Card, which is connected with the European Youth Card and was distributed to all the students of recognised and accredited tertiary education institutions in Cyprus and to Cypriot students who study abroad. In 2020, efforts were

made to cooperate with the Cyprus University of Technology and the University of Cyprus on issuing Student Cards connected with the European Youth Card. Moreover, a co-branded card was issued in cooperation with the City Unity College.

In recent years, the card has also been issued to all soldiers, distributed to them on their induction day, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence. In 2020, 4,000 cards were issued for new soldiers.

A new cooperation was formed with the Cyprus Sports Organisation that will lead to the connection of the European Youth Card to the Fan Card. The talks and procedures are expected to be concluded in 2021.

In 2020, the number of European Youth Card – Student Card holders reached 55,000.

In an attempt to provide cardholders with more benefits, the YBC distributed useful gifts, tickets to cultural events (concerts, theatre performances, etc.) and free participation in educational seminars through online contests.

In 2020, all cardholders and partners received our newsletters on a regular basis. Moreover, a promotional video on the card has been prepared and is currently available. In addition, the card was presented at various events and info-days at universities and festivals where youth cards were issued on the spot.

Finally, in 2020 the Youth Board of Cyprus attended the 35th General Assembly of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) which was held online in June.

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 water supply systems and can host festivals and other cultural events. Nicosia Municipality is responsible for allowing the use of the venue, giving priority to youth organisations and youth groups.



YBC Equipment

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

Priority on equipment borrowing will be based on the request form submission date, except in the peak period June-October. If request forms are submitted on the same date, 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 5 May of the same year. If 5 May is a non-working day; the submission deadline extends to the next working day. In 2020, the equipment was borrowed by five youth groups, since the majority of physical events were cancelled due to the pandemic.



DISTRIBUTION OF MASKS DESIGNED BY FIVE YOUNG ARTIST



#WEARYOURMASKCY

Distribution of masks designed by five young artists.

At a time when social awareness raising is more imperative than ever, the YBC promoted the use of masks, especially among young people. To this end, the YBC cooperated with young artists who designed five masks that carry a message for protection in an artistic way. There were five artistic approaches with a common message – the need to wear a mask in order to protect ourselves and people around us. Among the selected artists were: the street artist Twenty-Three, whose art is found on walls in Nicosia, Madrid, Mexico City, Palermo, La Coruna and Rome; Ermina Emmanuel, a graphic designer with experience in advertising and animation; Antria Alambriti, who has worked at Smiley Company in London; Philippos Vasiliades, a founding member of Graphic Designers Association with exhibitions in Cyprus and abroad; and Annie Damianou, who was been an associate of advertising and creative studios. The masks were launched and distributed at a special event at The Mall of Cyprus in Nicosia on 14 November.



DISTRIBUTION OF MASKS DESIGNED BY FIVE YOUNG ARTIST



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