



**YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS**



ANNUAL REPORT 2017



YOUTH
BOARD
OF CYPRUS

who we are



- Communication
- Leadership
- Evidence Based
- Respect
- Teamwork
- Innovation
- Experimentation
- Creativity
- Change
- Meraki

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

The Organisation is headed by a seven-member Board of Directors which is appointed by the Council of Ministers.

Vision

To establish ourselves as the organisation that puts young people firmly at the forefront 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

One of the main aims of the YBC is to contribute creatively to formulating youth policies that focus on modern day challenges, and that have a positive impact on youth. The state can offer effective solutions to youth related problems only if it truly understands young people's real needs. The YBC is responsible for submitting suggestions and proposals to the state on youth empowerment policies. To this purpose, it conducts specialised surveys and is in constant contact and consultation with young people, through the use of multiple tools, such as its Counselling Services, the National Youth Conference, the National Team of Structured Dialogue, open discussions and public consultations.

As a result, in 2017 the following have been done:



surveys

One of the most significant tools that enhance the work of the Youth Board in policy and projects development is surveys. Taking into account the current crucial issues and needs of young people, the YBC has chosen to focus on the following topics:

- a) Project Based Learning,
- b) Positive Youth Development,
- c) Kill Gap.

The results of these surveys are expected to be announced in 2018 and will be taken into consideration in developing YBC policy.

Ideodromio



national youth strategy

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) of Cyprus was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 18 May 2017 and formally presented to the public on 30 May at the Presidential Palace, under the auspices of the President of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades.

The National Youth Strategy (NYS) puts the government's plans for youth empowerment into action. It is the first policy document that addresses youth issues and which outlines the state's vision for the next six years. The NYS defines the targets and priorities on eight action pillars, which have a direct impact on young people's lives. At the same time, it establishes the mechanism for the implementation of specific measures and actions. This process brings together cross-sector cooperation among public services. As a result, public resources are deployed in the best possible way through cooperation and long-term planning. To this purpose, a Cross-Sector Working Group made of people from all relevant services was put together.

At the same time, a Monitoring Consultation Committee was set up in order to ensure a constructive dialogue between youth and relevant public bodies on youth issues, enabling youth participation in decision-making on issues of their concern. The NYS itself was drafted with the participation of about 3,000 young people, who have now become significant partners of the government in drafting, implementing and monitoring youth related policies.

The YBC is responsible for the coordination of all development and implementation actions of the NYC, fulfilling the fundamental pillar of its mission.

The 1st Meeting of the Monitoring Consultation Committee was held on 30 June 2017 with the guidance





Presentation of the National Youth Strategy (May '17)

of experts from the Council of Europe (CoE). The meeting was part of the support measures of the Youth Department of the CoE towards its member states. The aim of these measures is to transfer knowledge and good practices on youth policy. The youth policy sector is promoted actively by the CoE which considers youth as the wealth of each country, as well as an unfathomable source of inspiration, knowledge, skills and competences.

This meeting was a starting point for discussion among the YBC, public services and young people aiming at the practical implementation of the priorities set by young people through the NYS. The dialogue with young people was facilitated through the online consultation platform Opin, which was developed by the YBC through its participation in the European Project EUth Tools and Tips for Mobile and Digital Youth Participation in and across Europe. EUth is a three-year research programme, funded by Horizon 2020, with 11 partners from 8 countries. Its objectives are to encourage youth participation in youth policy development processes and develop trust among young people in decision making structures.



National Youth Strategy is delivered to the Minister of Education (April '17)



*Technological University of Cyprus -
Youth Board Protocol of cooperation (May '17)*



*National Youth
Strategy presented
to the Council of
Ministers (May '17)*

european & international relations & policies

participation in working groups on youth related issues

The YBC participates in the Working Groups on youth related issues held in Brussels during each Presidency of the European Council, as well as in Youth Conferences and in General Directors' meetings hosted by each Presidency. In 2017 the YBC participated in Youth Working Groups and conferences held during the Presidencies of Malta and Estonia. The youth policy documents drafted during these meetings were sent for approval and adoption by the Council of Ministers. It is worth mentioning that in 2017, the 3rd review/report of the renewed cooperation framework on youth 2010-2018 was completed (EU Youth Report).



*The Art of Diversity
(October '17)*

structured dialogue

In 2017 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. All member states which have a National Group for Structured Dialogue are involved in this process. In Cyprus, the National Group for Structured Dialogue consists of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Cyprus Youth Council, and is coordinated by the Cyprus Youth Council. In the context of this process, a large number of consultations was held in urban and rural areas as well as events and activities to promote the Structured Dialogue and meetings among representatives of the Group for Structured Dialogue to plan actions and analyse the consultation results.

youth wiki

In the context 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 on youth policies. It aims at collecting data on youth policies in every member state. To this purpose a special platform was created in order to improve information access, publicity as well as implementation and modernisation of these policies and their results.

Through its participation in the network in 2017, the YBC has completed the following five chapters, in close cooperation with the Cross-Sector Working Group on Youth Issues (based on its contractual obligations):

1. National Youth Policy
2. Voluntary Activities
3. Participation
4. Social Integration
5. Employment and Entrepreneurship

*University of
Nicosia - Board
cooperation*



participation at the european steering committee for youth (CDEJ)

The YBC participates in the meetings of the Steering Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe twice a year, where policies and other youth related issues are discussed and strategies are put forward in the member states.

A highlight of the Committee's activities in 2017 was the Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to CoE members states on youth work. With this Recommendation, the CoE encourages member states to develop a policy with practical measures on youth work and calls on its member states to adopt measures that will empower and support young people in the field of youth work at local, regional, national and European levels.



"From the circle to the gap" workshop (July '17)

european knowledge centre on youth policy (EKCY) of the council of europe

The YBC attended the annual meeting of the national correspondents of the Centre in order to monitor the drafting and implementation of youth national policies. In 2017 the correspondents' work concentrated on reporting the situation in the field of youth work in every country. The results of this report will be announced in 2018.

united nations

The YBC takes the United Nations policies under consideration and tries to incorporate them in the general framework of its youth policy. In 2017 the YBC participated in the 6th Youth Forum of ECOSOC which was held in January 2017 in New York with two delegates (a representative of YBC Executive Committee and a youth organisation member).

commonwealth

In 2017, as every other year, the YBC paid its annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth Programme for Youth, and maintained interest in relevant youth related programmes. The YBC encourages young people's participation in the Commonwealth Youth Forum providing financial and other kinds of support. During the conference "Youth Cooperation for Peace", organised by the YBC in December 2017, there was a meeting with representatives of the Commonwealth who attended the conference. A more detailed description of the conference follows.



international conference

Youth Cooperation for Peace (You Coop): Building Bridges to counter radicalisation and extremism - Nicosia, 12-14 December 2017

On 13-14 December 2017, YBC organised the international conference: Youth Cooperation for Peace (You Coop): Building Bridges to counter radicalisation and extremism with 30 participants aged between 18 and 35..

The conference was organised with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Culture and was attended by young people from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar and Slovakia, who exchanged ideas on finding new ways to promote tolerance and understanding and to combat stereotypes.

The conference focused on two main topics:

- 1) recognition/ exposure of youth policies' contribution towards extremism and radicalisation;
- 2) creation of tolerant societies that promote a peace culture.

Some of the conference conclusions were the following:

- A) With regard to preventing radicalisation, governments should empower youth in the following ways:
 - Creation of special youth empowerment centres
 - Promotion of critical thinking, citizen education, etc.
 - Elimination of social and economic inequalities, such as unemployment and poverty
 - Restore relations between citizens and the state.



*Youth Cooperation for Peace
(December '17)*

memoranda of cooperation

Aiming at building mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with other institutions, organisations and universities in Cyprus that will benefit not only youth in particular but also society as a whole, in 2017 the YBC signed four memoranda of cooperation with a) Cyprus University of Technology, b) University of Nicosia, c) University of Uclan, d) YoungShip.

programmes & services

funding opportunities



*Information Day for the Erasmus Programme
(December '17)*

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 2017 there were 3 application submission rounds. The first two were held in the context of the current Programme Guide and addressed the following beneficiary categories:

1. Youth Organisations – Members of the General Advisory Body
2. Cyprus Youth Council
3. Municipal and Community Youth Councils
4. Youth Clubs
5. Cultural Bodies and Organisations (under certain circumstances)
6. Departments of Youth Societies /Associations
7. Young Overseas Cypriots (NEPOMAK)
8. Informal Youth Groups
9. Non-Profit and Non-Governmental Organisations
10. Bodies that develop specialised youth projects and deal with young people with fewer opportunities
11. Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot political youth organisations.

The third applications submission round was held based on the revised Programme Guide, addressing the following categories:

- (a) Young people and youth groups
- (b) Youth Organisations
- (c) Youth Clubs

In 2017, a total of €906,000 was approved for 670 applications.



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 in the fields of 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 2017 all funds that were granted to the YBC for the Erasmus+ Youth Programme by the European Commission were fully absorbed.

More specifically, 230 applications were submitted of which 88 were approved, based on the available budget. Of the approved proposals, 71 involved youth mobility projects, 7 were strategic partnerships and 10 were projects in the framework of Structured Dialogue. As far as the 2017 Mobility Projects are concerned, participants numbered 1,664, whereas the number of youth workers was 469.

The 2017 beneficiaries were non-governmental / non-profit organisations from all over Cyprus, youth organisations, informal youth groups, universities, research centres and private organisations.

In 2017 the Agency participated in the Erasmus 30-year anniversary celebrations, along with other National Agencies from all over Europe. The celebration in Cyprus started with a formal event in January, whereas many more related events, such as festival participations, competitions and full day events were organised throughout the year. The highlight event was a big festival, co-organised with the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. Furthermore, the Agency celebrated European Youth Week in May, with a full day event with information desks, live music, treasure hunt, live link, etc. in Larnaka. These events were attended by more than 1,000 people. Finally, as every year, the Agency cooperated with other services and bodies, such as the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes and the European Commission Representation in Cyprus, in organising various events, lectures, the Europe Day celebrations and the event on Erasmus+ good practices dissemination.





From Erasmus to Erasmust+ (January '17)

European Voluntary Service (EVS)

European Voluntary Service (EVS) is one of the main activities of Erasmus+. It is aimed at people aged between 17 and 30 who want to volunteer in non-governmental organisations and public bodies overseas for 2-12 months, in order to acquire experience and skills. Accommodation, transport and food costs, as well as a large part of air tickets, are covered by the programme while volunteers also receive a monthly allowance for personal expenses. Volunteers are also registered with a special insurance plan and can attend free language classes in the hosting organisation's working language.

In 2017, 145 foreign volunteers offered voluntary services in Cyprus through 22 EVS funded projects. Moreover, in 2017 the number of accredited hosting organisations in Cyprus rose to 19.

The National Agency organised 11 volunteer trainings (On-arrival trainings and Mid-term evaluations) in the context of the EVS Training and Evaluation Cycle (EVS-TEC). The trainings were organised for foreign volunteers serving in Cyprus for more than 2 months and the objective was to assist in the creation of an informal network of volunteers, the formation of an environment that promotes learning and the evaluation of volunteers' experiences.



Commix workshop



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, amplifying the social impact of the programme. These activities concern 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 2017, more than 200 people participated in Erasmus+ training activities and seminars abroad. Moreover, the Youth Board of Cyprus, being the Erasmus+ Youth National Agency, organised 2 activities in Cyprus: You(th) in the Centre of Youth Exchanges, in Nicosia, and Sports Activities as a tool for empowering social inclusion, in Kakopetria. These were attended by 50 people from European countries. The participants exchanged ideas and knowledge, and developed skills, such as the use of native and foreign languages, numeric and technological skills, initiative development and entrepreneurship skills.



entrepreneursh

youth entrepreneurship development programme

In 2017 the Youth Board of Cyprus implemented this new programme, aiming at providing support to unemployed youths aged between 15 and 29 who would like to engage in a business initiative, thus promoting a culture of entrepreneurship in Cyprus.

The Programme was presented at a press conference at the Journalists' House in Nicosia on 16 November 2017. The press conference was attended by a large number of young people, representatives of youth NGOs and services and institutions that deal with employment and entrepreneurship.

This support mechanism will provide young people with limited knowledge and networking experience with the opportunity to discover and develop their entrepreneurial skills, to create sustainable businesses and to generate decent employment conditions for themselves, as well as for other young people.

To this purpose, a series of 28-hour training seminars was organised in all cities. Following the seminars, each participant received one-on-one advice from mentors with experience in entrepreneurship for a period of 6 months.

Moreover, the YBC created a specialised platform for this programme: www.youthentrepreneurshipcy.eu. Here, young people may access more information on the programme, the dates and venues of every training event, along with further information on how to create a new business.

The programme is funded by the European Social Fund by 85% and is eligible to be co-financed by the Youth Employment Initiative.

ip



*Youth Guarantee
to Activate and
Empower Youth in
Cyprus workshop
(November '17)*





Active Youth Press Conference (November '17)



youth guarantee to ACTIVate and empowerYOUTH in Cyprus: an integrated communications campaign (project acronym: active youth)

This YBC project was launched in 2017 aiming to inform and “activate” young people (especially NEETs- not in education, employment or training) with regard to available employment projects, to encourage them to register with the Public Employment Service and to provide substantial help in job search, education or training through the EU “Youth Guarantee” projects. This Project’s main objective is to battle youth unemployment and to provide education to young people and other bodies that are involved with youth through their participation in educational workshops and seminars.

The “Youth Guarantee” is a commitment by all member states to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 receive good quality job opportunities, continued education, apprenticeship or training, within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

The implementation of the project involves two large surveys and ten focus groups to examine the current situation and the knowledge level of young people about Youth Guarantee, followed by a big campaign on all media. In addition, 5 young people will be appointed Youth Guarantee Ambassadors and will participate in the campaign through video spots, as well as on TV programmes, etc. The website www.youthguarantee.org.cy was created in order to provide more information on the project and on education, training and employment opportunities in Cyprus.

YBC’s partners for the implementation of the Active Youth Project are the Department of Labour – Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, the Cyprus Youth Council and the Cyprus Youth Clubs Organisation.

The Project is co-funded by the European Commission’s Directorate General on Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.



1st Entrepreneurship & Start-up Conference

The Youth Board of Cyprus, Larnaka Municipality, Larnaka Europe Direct and the Larnaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organised the 1st Entrepreneurship and Start-up Conference on 7 December 2017, in cooperation with the Embassy of Israel in Cyprus and Larnaka Junior Chamber International.

Speakers from Israel, the Start-up Nation, talked about the significance of start-up companies in the future of entrepreneurship in Cyprus. The conference was attended by more than 100 young people who had the chance to find out about the development of start-ups and to participate in group workshops on more specialised matters, such as communication, promotion, funding, and other related topics. During the Conference there was a competition on the best start-up idea. The winners were Ms. Rafella Aristidou and the group of Mr. Marios Georgiou.





1st Entrepreneurship and Start-up Conference (December '17)



youth makerspace larnaka

Youth Makerspace Larnaka was modelled on Makerspaces established by university institutions and communities abroad and provides access to high quality and high tech equipment for the development of prototypes and for the implementation of business ideas. Makerspaces around the world have democratised the fields of design, engineering, construction, creation and education.

This new YBC Project is implemented in cooperation with Larnaka Municipality. It was introduced to the public at a press conference on 11 October 2017 at the Arts and Literature House in Larnaka.

In this place, young people can learn about technology, crafts, creative production processes, they can share knowledge and skills and put them into action. It covers a vast range of creative production. Among others, the equipment consists of 3D printers, laser cutters, drones, virtual reality, robotics, arduino, raspberry pi and much more. At Makerspace one may attend various workshops on how to use the equipment, idea and project development workshops, etc.

This place also operates as a Youth Entrepreneurship Development Centre, within the framework of YBC programme.

Youth Makerspace Larnaka welcomes young people of 6-35 years old, as well as youth groups, school classes, etc.



*Lights ON, New Goals,
New Era (November '17)*





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 the application process to young people aged 20-40. The scheme's objectives are the development, support and promotion of entrepreneurship and the creation of new and sustainable businesses through funding and training seminars.

On 20 December 2017 the 2nd call for applications was announced which will be open until 19 March 2018.

Two seminars were organised at YBC's premises in Nicosia and Limassol on 12 and 18 December respectively to present the Scheme. The seminars were attended by a large number of young people.

information



*"I discover Cyprus"
programme (July '17)*



youth information centres (YIC)

The main purpose of the Centres is to provide young people with general information on topics of their interest, guiding them towards their social integration 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, as YICs operate as Eurodesk Cyprus contact points

Youth Information Centres operate in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaka, Paphos and Agros. In 2017 the YBC created a new Youth Information Centre in the Famagusta area, in cooperation with the Municipality of Sotira. Therefore, YICs are currently found in all government-controlled districts of Cyprus.

YICs operate according to 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 Pancyprian number 77 77 27 57.

In 2017 the YICs organised events and participated in festivals, education fairs, school events and presentations on topics such as Employment, Mobility, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship, Education, Social Media, and European Programmes. The events were held at YICs premises and attended by more than 4,000 people.



student empowerment summer schools

The Youth Information Centres in Nicosia, Larnaka and Limassol organised Student Empowerment Summer Schools for high-school students. The summer schools were held at the YIC premises and lasted for two weeks. The summer schools were attended by 50 students, who participated in numerous events, workshops, field-trips and developed valuable skills that will help them be more effective students at school and more active citizens in society.



*Student Forum
for Diversity
and Inclusion
(March '17)*





eurodesk κύπρου

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. Those interested may contact Eurodesk at eurodeskcy@eurodesk.eu, visit the European Youth Portal, or call 77772757. Eurodesk is co-funded by the European Commission, it operates in 34 European countries and in Cyprus it is operated by the YBC.



In 2017, apart from participating in festivals, information events and education fairs, Eurodesk Cyprus organised a large festival in Larnaka, in cooperation with Erasmus+ Youth National Agency. The festival was held on 6 May 2017 and offered various activities, events, live link, a flash mob and live music by youth bands. Attendees had the opportunity to find out information on education, mobility and volunteerism opportunities offered by Erasmus+ and the Youth Board of Cyprus.

European Campaign “Time to Move”

“Time to Move” is the largest European campaign of Eurodesk network which started in 2014. It consists of various online and offline activities and events for young people and is organised every October. As every year, the campaign was organised by Eurodesk Cyprus and YBC Youth Information Centres, which operate as Eurodesk Programme multipliers. 17 events were organised during which attendees were informed about the numerous opportunities to travel abroad and participate in an international programme, explore Europe or acquire valuable experience for the future.



Photo Competition “From your Neighbourhood to Europe”

In the context of the “Time to Move” Campaign, the YICs organised a national amateur photo competition “From your Neighbourhood to Europe”. The competition aimed to encourage young people to choose various aspects of their daily life, and present them in a creative and artistic way. The Competition was held in memory of Thrasivoulos Thrasivoulou, Executive Secretary of the Youth Board of Cyprus.



*Photo Exhibition
Move - Motivating
(March '17)*



europaean youth portal

The European Youth Portal contains information and opportunities that interest people who live, study and work in Europe. There are nine main information categories: education and professional training, creativity and culture, health and welfare, employment and entrepreneurship, volunteerism, participation, travelling, etc. The Youth Portal covers 34 countries and is available in these countries' languages. The YBC is responsible for the operation of the European Youth Portal for Cyprus.

counselling services

career counselling & career management services

Career Counselling and Career Management Services are provided to young people up to 35 years old, aiming at helping them take the best possible decisions in terms of education and professional development while planning their professional career and during job hunting. They offer guidance and support, personal and professional skills development, help identify and create opportunities, assist in drafting CVs, in job search and job interviews, enhance the development of entrepreneurial initiative, provide information about European and local opportunities, etc. In 2017 the Youth Board of Cyprus offered a free career test, where 1,515 personal career consultations with young people were conducted.

*Makerspace
Presentation*



help line 1410 & e-counselling

1410 is dialled by young people in search for responsible answers on daily life matters, but also on more complex issues such as addictive substances, sexuality issues, eating disorders, etc. The Help Line's consultants handle all calls with professionalism, without discrimination, on a confidential basis and never ask for personal details. The line operates all year round, Monday to Sunday and calls are free.

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

More than 1,000 calls were made to the two programmes. The majority of the callers were women. As regards age, the majority of callers were teenagers and young people (15-29 years old). Help Line 1410 seems to be quite well established as a way to acquire information and express concerns among students. The main topics raised by student callers concerned family relationships, peer relationships, stress and phobias, school bullying, physical and psychological violence, self-confidence and self-awareness.

As in previous years, some issues that require further consideration are Parent Counselling (questions and concerns regarding teenage addictions, issues of bad behaviour, the impact of divorce on children), drugs related questions, relationship problems and callers' mental health.



“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 265 people, 80% of whom were women. 998 meetings were conducted in 2017, in comparison to 724 in 2016. More specifically, the meetings in 2017 were as follows: 64.5% personal, 23% parents, 7% couples and 1.5% family meetings (in the presence of both parents and children). As far as case development is concerned, 55 cases were interrupted (20%), 85 cases completed the process (32%) and 125 cases were in process and are expected to be completed in 2018 (48%). Stress and negative feelings management was the main issue and concerned 124 cases. The second most popular issue concerned Parent Counselling (children and teenagers’ problematic behaviour) which was raised in 118 cases. The third most common issue brought forward by 104 cases was relationship problems. When it comes to demographic details,

- 54% of the people contacted the Limassol-Paphos Complex and
- 46% the Nicosia-Larnaka Complex.
- 16.2% were teenagers (15-18 years old) and
- 51.5% were young adults (19-35 years old).
- 44.5% of people stated that they were not in a long-term relationship during counselling. As far as their educational background is concerned, the majority (41.1%) were degree holders from a tertiary institution (3 years+) and
- 43.4% had a full-time job, while
- 18.5% stated that they were unemployed.





*Psychological
First Aid by
"Mikri Arktos"*

"mikri arktos" programme of psychosocial empowerment

The aim of the Programme of Psychosocial Empowerment "Mikri Arktos" is personality development, improvement of social skills, confidence boosting and personal empowerment that will enable individuals to deal with daily challenges successfully. Through psycho-educational 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 is aimed at young people, aged 16-35 years old, who wish to participate individually, as well as groups and organisations.

"Mikri Arktos" organised 15 Group Meetings in 2017 which were attended by 117 people, and 87 individual activities which were attended by 1,405 people. In total, 1,582 individuals were served by "Mikri Arktos", compared with 667 in 2016.

Most of the activities were held in the YBC premises, whereas a significant number of activities was conducted at Youth Centres and schools. "Mikri Arktos" took part in Alcohol Week, which was organised by the Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council and in awareness raising events organised by the YBC at the University of Cyprus, the Technological University of Cyprus and the Mall of Cyprus.

creative activity

Youth Multicentres – “The Steamers”

“Youth Multicentres” operated in Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos until July 2017. Youth Multicentres aimed to facilitate young people’s engagement in creative activities and to encourage a more active social involvement. Among others, several workshops were offered on various topics, such as Music, Dance, Sports, Computers, Art, Drama, etc. In addition, the programme encouraged and supported the organisation and hosting of events and other activities by young people and their organisations. In the period 2016-2017, 134 workshops were organised as follows:

| Multicentre | Number of Workshops | Number of Participants |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Nicosia | 38 | 217 |
| Limassol | 21 | 148 |
| Paphos | 75 | 513 |

Taking into account young people’s current needs as expressed through surveys and public consultations among them, the Youth Board of Cyprus has decided to change the “Multicentres” programme, evolving it to a new programme called “The Steamers”.



Based on the international STEAM standards (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths), the Youth Board has launched a new series of workshops which bring together Robotics, Photography, Coding, Art, Music and Drama. The workshops are conducted by specialised trainers at YBC premises in Nicosia, Limassol and Paphos every afternoon from Monday to Saturday.

The programme aspires to cultivate critical thinking among young people, contributing to their personal development and wellbeing. Moreover, 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. For some of the participants, the workshop attendance may even serve as a step that will bring them closer to more formal education, training and employment programmes.



Psychological First Aid by "Mikri Arktos"



*Closing Event
of the Limas-
sol Multicentre
(June '17)*



*Closing Event of the
Paphos Multicentre
(June '17)*



other benefits for young people



*Creative writing
workshop*

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 in Cyprus and 37 European countries. 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 institutions.

7,520 cards were issued for students and young people in 2017. Furthermore, after an agreement between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Ministry of Defence, about 4,200 cards were issued and distributed to young conscripts. Moreover, in 2017 the Youth Board of Cyprus attended the 33rd General Assembly of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) which was held in Belgrade, Serbia on 1-4 June.

On 30-31 January 2017 the international seminar “Countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation: using the European Youth Card to promote peaceful communities” was organised at the Classic Hotel in Nicosia. The seminar was organised during the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union in order to contribute productive ideas towards the battle against extremism and radicalisation among European youth. The seminar was attended by about 40 representatives of Ministries and Public Services which deal with education, youth and social services, representatives of EYCA member organisations, NGO representatives, young immigrants, etc.

Finally, in an attempt to provide card holders with more benefits, the YCB distributed well-appreciated presents (tablets, smartphones, laptops, etc.), tickets to cultural events (concerts, theatre performances, etc.) and free participation at educational seminars through online contests.



open air youth events venue

The YBC has acquired and installed the required equipment at Famagusta Gate Moat in Nicosia, in order to facilitate the organisation of events by young people and youth organisations. The YBC can provide this equipment to youth organisations free of charge. The equipment is also available for use by other organisations at a fee. The equipment can also be provided for the support of events in other locations outside Famagusta Gate Moat.



municipal & community youth councils

Municipal and Community Youth Councils contribute to a continuous, substantial connection and dialogue between local authorities and youth. This institution gives young people and their organisations an opportunity to be 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 2017 five new Municipal and Community Youth Councils were established in three Communities (Ag. Marina Xyliatou, Milia and K. Dikomo) and two Municipalities (Sotira and Geri). The YBC supports Municipal and Community Youth Councils by providing consultation and advice on their role, by actively participating in their General Assemblies and meetings, as well as by providing financial support through the Youth Initiatives Project.





*Youth Festival
(September '17)*



Youth Festival

For a third consecutive year, the Youth Board of Cyprus has organised the Youth Festival, which is not only addressed to young people, but focuses on them exclusively, allowing them to present their talents and work while developing their knowledge and skills, and of course have fun.

The Festival was held on 16 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 section 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 a 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.

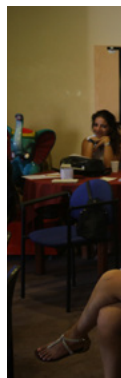
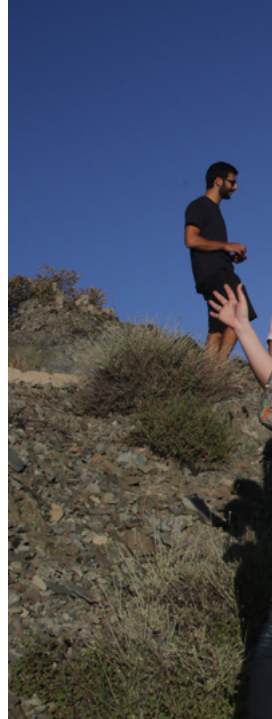
2nd youth leadership academy

The YBC organised the 2nd Summer Youth Leadership Academy between 28 June and 2 July 2017 in Kakopetria, with the attendance of 30 young people aged 19-26 from all over Cyprus.

The Academy's aim was to empower young people who have a vision in positive change and social progress. Young participants were introduced to creative ways of thinking and to ways to develop and exhibit leadership skills in order to put their innovative ideas into action.

Experienced trainers and facilitators helped participants develop their skills and acquire new knowledge and experiences. The participants were introduced to Design Thinking methodology with the guidance of trainer Natasa Christou and learned about the basic principles of preparing a presentation by trainer Leonidas Christou. A group of trainers from the NGO "Akti" presented the notion of sustainable development and how it can be combined with entrepreneurship through examples of good practices. The participants were inspired by the personal stories of people who pursued their dreams, like Giorgos Andreou, the first Cypriot who climbed Everest and the well-known stand-up comedian Louis Patsalides.

The YBC Summer Academy brought together theory and action, since after the lectures and workshops, participants worked in groups to identify issues and challenges facing Kakopetria. They looked into these matters more carefully and then came up with solutions in the form of business ideas. These were presented on the last day of the Academy in the presence of the YBC President, the president of Troodos Development Company, the YBC Executive Secretary, officials and residents of Kakopetria. In fact, some business ideas were particularly attractive and Troodos Development Company expressed interest in funding them.





*2nd Youth Leadership
Summer School (July '17)*





youth awards

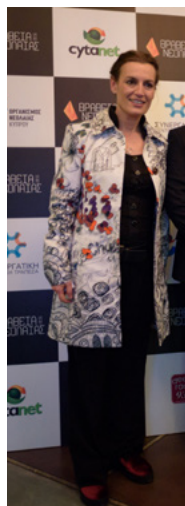
The Youth Board of Cyprus, in cooperation with the Co-operative Central Bank, organised “Youth Awards” for the first time, aiming at promoting and rewarding young people who have accomplished remarkable work in their field.

The “Youth Awards” honoured young people who distinguished themselves through specific actions/initiative/work/achievements in various fields, and who act as positive role models, encouraging them to believe in their abilities and in efforts for a better world.

The awarded people were selected through an impartial and fair process and the award ceremony was held on 15 February 2017 at the Rialto Theatre in Limassol.

Youth Awards were given for the following categories:

1. Environmental Action Award
2. Innovation Award
3. Science Award
4. Culture Award
5. Entrepreneurship Award
6. Sports Award
7. Social Contribution Award
8. “Young Person of the Year” Award
9. “Youth Organisation of the Year” Award
10. Co-operative Central Bank Award





Youth Awards
(February '17)



YBC personnel training

In 2017 a two-day training seminar was organised for all employees, during which trainees and personnel agreed on the Organisation's targets and mission, thereby formulating the Organisation's vision which they all embrace as their driving force.

Furthermore, the trainees – YBC employees drafted the values and behaviours that should guide the Organisation today and in the future, enhancing cooperation and the feeling of mutual trust among them. Cooperation is based on recognition, genuine cooperation and effective communication. At the end of the training, the YBC group committed to a continuous and common effort to achieve the set targets.



*Cutting the 'vasilopita'
(February '17)*







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