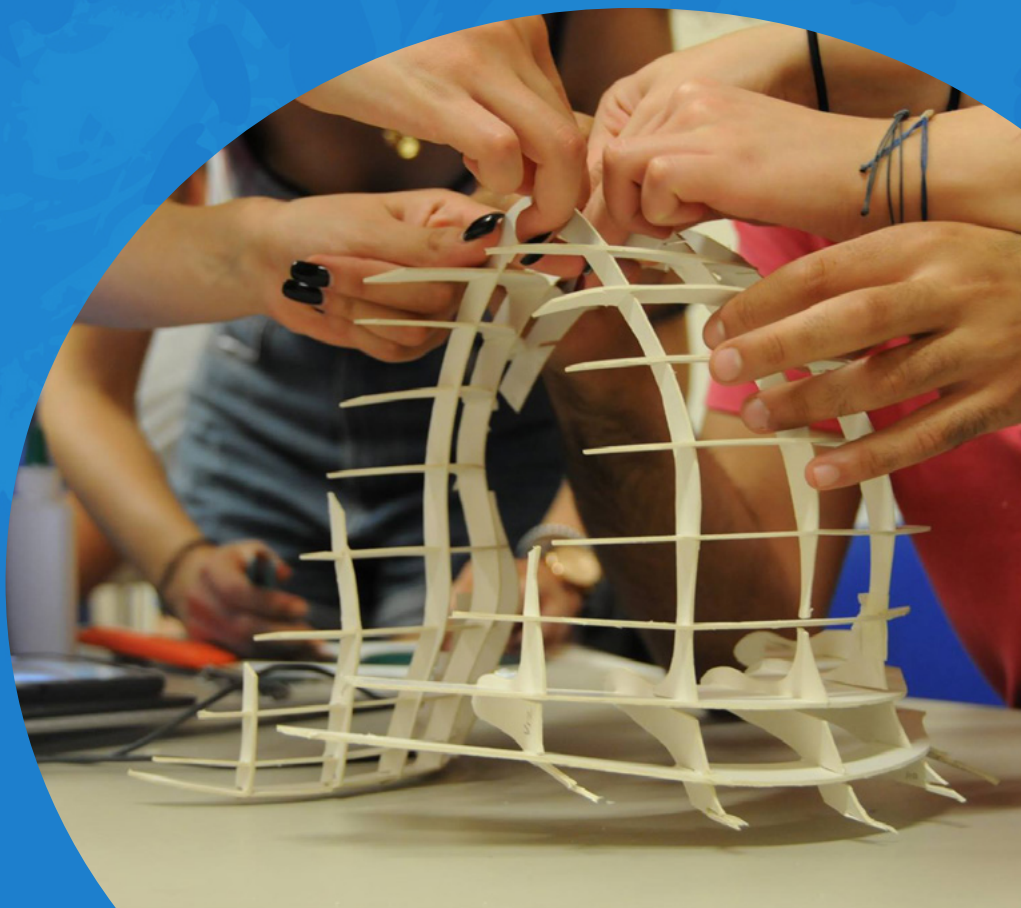




**YOUTH  
BOARD  
OF CYPRUS**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2018**





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 people who are appointed by the Council of Ministers.

### Vision

To establish ourselves as the organisation, which focuses on young people, 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 programs and high-quality services today, for a better tomorrow.

# contribution to youth policy

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

As a result, in 2018 the Board has achieved the following:





## 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 chose to focus on the following topics in 2017 and 2018:

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

The results of these surveys, along with the proposals and suggestions of young people during the 3rd National Youth Convention, led to the policy proposal “Meaningful Knowledge and Skills: The School that we Want”, which was submitted to the Ministry of Education and Culture by the YBC.

The survey results and policy proposal were presented at an event that took place at Leventis Gallery on December 17, 2018. During the presentation, the YBC shed light on the expectations of young people with regards to school and the experience of learning as well as their perceptions of successful professional growth. The event aimed to make an impact on public policy, focusing on the perspective of young people as it had been articulated in the surveys and structured dialogue.



*Meaningful Knowledge and Skills: The School that we Want*

## 3rd National Youth Convention

The National Youth Convention has become the most inclusive consultation institution, bringing young people and the state together. Hence, it is organised under the auspices of the President of the Republic. It aims to bring young people to the centre of the state's attention, based on the National Youth Strategy's objective to foster youth participation in the decision-making process, with regards to youth-related issues.

The 3rd National Youth Convention, "Challenge your Future: Skills, Trends, Opportunities", dealt with the challenges that young people are facing in the job market, since employability is a topic of great concern for young people today.

Young people were asked to express their opinion and draft suggestions and proposals for the government on the following topics:

- **Knowledge** – What do we need to know (basic topics as well as more contemporary subjects that should be included in the school curriculum)?
- **Skills** – How do we apply what we learn (critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration)?
- **Personality** – How do we act as members of a local and global society (ethics, leadership, contribution)?
- **Learning (Meta-Learning)** – How do we perceive knowledge and how do we realise that we can enhance our skills through hard work?





300 young people from all over Cyprus drew the following conclusions:

Acknowledging that global scientific and technological developments will affect the socioeconomic status quo of every country, while creating new development opportunities, young people believe that the most significant and essential reform that needs to be implemented, is education reform. The education system is undoubtedly the main institution that contributes to the personal development of young people and their subsequent involvement in society as active citizens. Adjusting to the 21st century requires reviewing all the educational aspects of the school: knowledge, skills, personality and meta-learning.

As far as **knowledge** is concerned, young people suggest reviewing the importance and relevance of school subjects, as well as the introduction of new contemporary subjects that will lead to a better balance between theory and practice. The school curriculum should, therefore, be reviewed and altered, in terms of both content

and teaching hours, based on the needs of both the present and the future. Moreover, young people are demanding a more direct and modern approach to learning through smart and user-friendly applications. They also ask for more contemporary and effective Career Counselling at school, that will provide guidance and encourage them to enhance their personal skills and knowledge based on the real needs of the market and the professions of the future.

When it comes to **skills**, young people suggest enriching the school curriculum with additional aspects which will contribute to enhancing the students' personal and transversal skills (i.e. creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication) mainly through non-formal learning and cooperation with other institutions which may be involved in skills development. Moreover, students are asking for incentives to participate in a wide range of extracurricular activities, including European programmes. The discussion revealed that skills and participation should be further enhanced and promoted in innovative ways, both inside and outside the school, and that the implementation of technology at school and the development of digital skills are of the outmost importance, in order to enable students to face current and future challenges.

With regards to **personality**, a series of measures fostering the development of a comprehensive personality are proposed, emphasising the need to train teachers. In this context, the development of emotional intelligence, respect and tolerance of diversity is very significant. Young people underline that personality development should correspond to the





needs of our times and should be achieved through informal learning and a holistic approach to education. Moreover, young people propose the establishment of Youth Centers, which contribute in the development of young people's personalities through extracurricular activities.

Finally, as far as **learning** is concerned, young people request that experiential learning is implemented. It is a method which creates lively, interactive and interesting learning experiences. Young people believe that by assuming responsibilities and initiatives they can adequately prepare for future challenges. Moreover, the introduction of alternative learning methods in the education system is imperative in order to broaden the students' competences. Alternative learning methods, in combination with individualised learning and constant support to students with learning difficulties and disabilities, are innovative educational approaches that enhance the talents of each student. At the same time, young people stress the need to modernise assessment methods and introduce self-reflection in the school context. Through self-reflection they will be able to process the knowledge and experiences they have acquired and discover which learning methods are most effective for them. Finally, young people called for the enhancement of evaluation methods that will improve of the education system as a whole.

All suggestions described above are derived from the limitations of the present education system and take into account both the current and future needs of young people. By implementing their proposals in education reform and policy-making, young people will be equipped with everything they need to grow personally, socially and professionally, in this fast-evolving world.

The full report, which contains the results of the discussion and the suggestions of the participants, can be found on the YBC website.



## national youth strategy

In 2018, the First National Youth Strategy Action Plan (NYS) was completed. The Action Plan launches the implementation of the Strategy.

The Cross-Sector Working Group for the Youth, which consists of more than 20 public sector departments, drafted a document that outlines the steps already taken or planned, which achieve the aims set out by young people in the NYS. The Action Plan also presents the new measures of the YBC, which either implement certain NYS targets or enhance the monitoring of the NYS.

The Action Plan provides comprehensive and reliable information on strategic priority actions, implementation deadlines, responsible parties for each deliverable, funding sources and an indication on budget allocation. In order to evaluate the implementation of the strategic targets, each department has established certain performance indicators.

The measures described in the document are not the only ones that can be implemented within the context of NYS. The Strategy is expected to develop further and adapt to the results of the cross-sector cooperation, which is a long-term process. During the implementation of the Strategy, the measures will be adjusted according to developments, while new measures will be proposed, through continuous evaluation and monitoring, as well as through constant dialogue with young people.

The Strategy was established in a non-traditional way; based on participatory development and co-creation, involving both public departments and young people. Therefore, dialogue and





consultations with young people were the basic element of the Strategy and this continued through 2018 with local consultations, which were held across the island in cooperation with Youth Clubs, the Municipal and Community Youth Councils and Cyprus Youth Council member organisations. The consultation focused on collecting young people's views on the measures presented in the Strategy, as well as on the new measures that would be included in the Action Plan. The results of the consultation with the 150 young participants will serve as the basis of the consultation with other involved parties, which will result in a three-year Action Plan and the completion of the Strategy within a six-year framework.

# European & international relations & policies

## participation in working groups on youth-related issues

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





**Structured Dialogue:** In 2018, the Structured Dialogue process continued, based on the guidelines of the European Steering Committee for Structured Dialogue, which consist of the European Youth Forum, the Presidency and the European Committee. All Member States that 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 it 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 and various events and activities were held, in order to promote Structured Dialogue. Representatives of the Group for Structured Dialogue met with each other on various occasions, in order to plan actions and analyse the results of the consultation. In 2018, the Structured Dialogue procedure was based on the priorities set by the presidency trio and was discussed at European Youth Conferences held during the Presidencies of Bulgaria and Austria respectively.

## 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 the comprehensive knowledge and understanding of youth policies. Its aim is to collect data concerning youth policies in every member state. For this purpose, a special platform was created in order to facilitate access to information, publicity, implementation and modernisation of these policies and their results.

Through its participation in the network in 2018, the YBC cooperated closely with the Cross-sector Working Group on Youth Issues and (according to its contractual obligations) it contributed to the content of the chapters: Health and Wellbeing, Education and Training, Creativity and Culture and Youth and the World. It also updated the chapters: National Youth Policy, Voluntary Activities, Participation, Social Integration, Employment and Entrepreneurship.

In 2018, the EU analysed the content of the Volunteerism chapter and announced the first comparative report in this sector, which is available on the Youth Wiki webpage.

## 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, as well as the meetings of the Presidency of the Committee, in which the YBC Executive Director is a member. These bodies discuss policies and other youth related issues as well as strategies that are put forward in Member States.

In 2018, the Committee focused on preparing a draft recommendation on supporting young refugees in transition to adulthood.

## european knowledge centre on youth policy (EKCYP) 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 national youth policies. In 2018, the correspondents' work focused on supporting youth policies and using surveys for this purpose.



## united nations

The YBC participates in international conventions and forums organised by the UN, as the youth policies and initiatives of the UN, are taken into serious consideration by the YBC in its National Youth Strategy. In 2018, the YBC and Cypriot youth representatives participated in the following UN events: a) UN Winter Youth Assembly in February, with two delegates from youth organisations, b) 7th ECOSOC Youth Forum, which took place in New York in January, with the YBC Chairman, c) Youth Summit on Youth Dialogue in May, with the YBC Chairman and a member of the Executive Committee.

## commonwealth

The YBC paid its annual financial contribution to the Commonwealth Youth Programme, like every year, as it always considers the programme's youth-related initiatives. The YBC encourages the participation of young people in the Commonwealth Youth Forum providing financial and other support.

In 2018, the YBC participated in two Commonwealth youth events that aimed at drafting a road map for a holistic development and promotion of employment for young people in Cyprus. The two events were the following:

1. Commonwealth Higher Education Youth Work Consortium Workshop on 25 – 27 June 2018
2. 3rd Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work on 06 – 08 November 2018.

## memoranda of cooperation

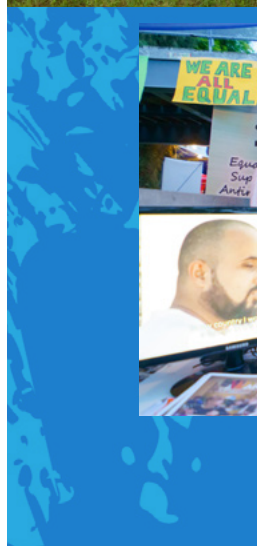
Aiming to build mutually beneficial strategic partnerships with other institutions, organisations and Universities in Cyprus, which will benefit not only the youth but also society as a whole, the YBC signed memoranda of cooperation with the following institutions in 2018: a) Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, b) Promitheas Research Institute, c) Cyprus International Institute of Management, d) Cyprus Integrity Forum.

## 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 their organisations are actively involved in issues that interest them as well as the decision-making process in their communities. The YBC provides financial, technical and advisory support to the Municipal and Community Youth Councils.

In 2018, two new Community Youth Councils were established in the occupied communities of Vatyli and Pentagia.

The YBC resumed providing support to Municipal and Community Youth Councils through consultations and advice on their role, by actively attending their General Assemblies and meetings, as well as by providing financial support through the Youth Initiatives Project. In 2018, the YBC received applications from 32 Municipal and Community Youth Councils and €14,664 was allocated to eight Municipal and Community Youth Councils.





# programmes and services

## funding opportunities



## youth initiatives project

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

In 2018, there were 3 application rounds for the following beneficiary categories:

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

**In 2018**, 750 applications were submitted to the Programme, requesting more than €2.000.000 in total. **490 applications were approved and €1.408.000 was budgeted for them.** The sum that was finally allocated to them was €1.160.000.

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 groups, as well as support to Youth Coordinating Bodies. Moreover, the programme supports Greek language courses and programmes that promote Cypriot history and culture for Young Overseas Cypriots (NEPOMAK).





## students in action

"Students in Action" is a funded programme, implemented by the Youth Board of Cyprus for the second running year.

The aim of the programme is to strengthen the student community through two pillars:

- (a) Providing grants for research on youth related issues, and specifically topics related to the National Youth Strategy priorities
- (b) Encouraging student entrepreneurship and innovation through grants to individual students and student groups, in order to help them implement their business ideas, innovative projects and initiatives that foster creative ideas and entrepreneurial culture among students.

In 2018, **€128.465** was allocated to 49 applicants as research grants, whereas the **€50.470** was allocated to 12 entrepreneurial projects.





*European Union's Erasmus+ programme*





## eu erasmus+ programme for youth

The European Union's Erasmus+ programme, is a funding scheme to support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport between 2014 and 2020. The YBC is the National Agency responsible for funds allocation for youth and non-formal learning. You can find out more information about the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, at [www.erasmusplus.cy](http://www.erasmusplus.cy).

It should be mentioned that in 2018, all the funds granted to the YBC by the European Commission for the purposes of the Erasmus+ programme, were fully absorbed.

More specifically, 241 applications were submitted, of which 76 were approved, based on the available budget. The approved proposals included 60 involved youth mobility projects, 6 strategic partnerships and 10 projects in the framework of Structured Dialogue.

As far as the 2018 Mobility Projects are concerned, there were 1,664 participants, and 469 youth workers.

The beneficiaries of 2018 were non-governmental / non-profit organisations from all over Cyprus, youth organisations, informal youth groups, universities, research centres, private organisations, etc.

During the first two application rounds of 2018, 13 volunteering projects were funded, which brought 92 foreign volunteers for voluntary work in Cyprus.

Even though the Volunteering Projects were moved from the third round of applications in 2018 to the new EU Programme "European Solidarity Corps", some are still implemented. Hence, in the context of Volunteering Projects Training and Evaluation Cycle, the National Agency organised 13 trainings in 2018 (On-arrival trainings, Mid-term evaluations and an Annual VP event). The first two types of trainings addressed foreign volunteers who volunteered in Cyprus for a period longer than two months, aiming to establish an informal network of volunteers, an environment that would encourage learning and evaluate the experience of the volunteers.

The Annual Volunteering Projects Event addressed former Cypriot volunteers, as well as young people who are interested in participating in

volunteering projects. It provided former volunteers with the opportunity to evaluate the experience and knowledge they acquired through volunteering, and enabled them to share these with young volunteers, while promoting such projects.

In 2018, the Organisation organised and attended various Info Days. The highlight event was “Erasmus Festival – From the Past to the Future”, which was organised by the Organisation and the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. The festival took place at Faneromeni Square in Nicosia and presented our cultural heritage through a wide range of activities, information points, traditional dances, art workshops, educational games and competitions.

Moreover, the organisation attended the YBC Festival “Up To You(th)” with a booth, which attracted a large number of visitors.

The organisation had an active presence on social and traditional media throughout the year, offering direct and instant information to young people. Finally, just like every year, the Service 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, for the organisation of various events, talks, Education expos, career expos, a celebration for Europe Day and events promoting Erasmus+ good practices.





## “european solidarity corps”

The European Solidarity Corps is a new programme by the EU, which will run until 2020.

It creates opportunities for young European citizens, between 18-30 years old, to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad for a period of 2-12 months.

The Corps supports a wide range of activities and projects that relate to Disaster prevention, Reception Centre assistance, as well as other social problems.

The YBC is the National Agency that manages the European Solidarity Corps in Cyprus. For more information you can visit the website: <http://eusolidaritycorps.onek.org.cy/>.

Applications for European Solidarity Corps activities closed on the 16th of October 2018. 14 applications were submitted, of which 11 were Volunteering Project applications, one was a Solidarity Project application and two were applications for Volunteering Partnerships.

Eleven applications were approved, as three Volunteering Projects did not complete the quality control procedure. According to the Programme's regulations, when an organisation is approved to form a Volunteering Partnership, it is not eligible for Volunteering Projects.

The above approved projects will be implemented on the 1st of January 2019. There were no programmes running in 2018.

In 2018, applicants included non-governmental and non-profit organisations, youth organisations and an informal group of young people.

When the new Programme was introduced, the Volunteering Projects (former European Voluntary Service) were incorporated within the Corps.

The volunteer's accommodation, food and transport expenses, as well as part of the plane tickets cost, are covered by the Programme. The volunteer receives a small monthly allowance for personal expenses and language lessons in the host-country's language. In addition, the volunteer is covered by a collective insurance plan.

In 2018, there were 20 accredited organisations in Cyprus, while one more organisation applied for a Quality Label (which corresponds to the Erasmus+ accreditation). The Quality Label is a requirement for every organisation that wishes to participate in the program. The organisations that are accredited by Erasmus+ are eligible to participate in European Solidarity Corps projects.







European Solidarity Corps





*Lifestories*







## transnational partnerships

Transnational Partnerships are educational events or seminars that promote Erasmus+ priorities and objectives. Through these partnerships, Organisations 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, members of youth organisations or informal youth groups, that organise activities (e.g. seminars, forums, trainings) addressing specific target-groups.

In 2018, more than 150 people participated at Erasmus+ training activities and seminars abroad. Furthermore, the Youth Board of Cyprus, as the Erasmus+ National Agency for Youth, organised 2 activities in Cyprus: the Euro-Mediterranean Youth Forum “Sustainable Participation and Active Citizenship”, which aimed at fostering cooperation between EU and Mediterranean countries, and the training “Using Social Entrepreneurship in Erasmus+”, in which participants explored ways in which Erasmus+ can enhance social entrepreneurship. A total of 91 people from European and Mediterranean countries attended these activities.

The initiative LifeStories, which was organised by the YBC in 2018, focused on inspiring and empowering young people, as well as the Cypriot society, while promoting notions of respect, democracy and acceptance in the contemporary multicultural society. The campaign organised ten activities, which focused on youth interests, such as music, poetry, physical activity and awareness festivals. Through these events, people were informed about how digital narration, music and physical activity may be used as tools for social inclusion. Moreover, the events raised awareness for young people’s role models and how they are affected by them. 150,000 people participated in the events, festivals and workshops of LifeStories.



# entrepreneursh

## youth entrepreneurship development program

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program, which was launched in 2017, continued into 2018. The programme aims at supporting unemployed people between 15-29 years old, who would like to become entrepreneurs thus promoting a culture of entrepreneurship in Cyprus.

In 2018, four series of seminars were conducted in Nicosia and Limassol, while more seminars were planned in other cities, as well as rural areas. Two seminars were given to high-school graduates and two seminars were addressed to university graduates; these were attended by 26 young people in total. Each seminar series was 28 hours long, and lasted four days; participants learned about the stages of business development, self-employment schemes, company registration procedures, business plan drafting, project management, sales and communication techniques, selling a business and business investigation. After the four-day seminars, participants received further individualised support during their first business steps by experienced business mentors for a period of six months.





# ship



This support programme allows young people with limited knowledge and networks, to discover and enhance the competences of their business as well as establish sustainable businesses and good working conditions for themselves, as well as their peers.

Additionally, the YBC created a specialised platform for this programme: [www.youthentrepreneurshipcy.eu](http://www.youthentrepreneurshipcy.eu). Here, young people can 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 may be co-funded by the Youth Employment Initiative.





*Youth Guarantee to activate  
and Empower youth in Cyprus*

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

This YBC project was launched in 2017 and was completed on December 31st 2018. It aimed to inform and “stimulate” young people (especially NEETs - not in education, employment or training) as it comes to available employment projects, encourage them to register at the Public Employment Service and provide substantial assistance with regards to job search, education or training through the EU’s “Youth Guarantee” projects. This Project’s main objective is to combat youth unemployment and provide training to young people and other stakeholders involved in youth issues 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 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education apprenticeship, traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

In the context of the implementation of the Project two major surveys and ten focus groups were conducted in order identify current situation and the level of young people’s knowledge of the Youth Guarantee, followed by a major media campaign. In addition, young people were selected to be Youth Guarantee Ambassadors and participated in the campaign through clips, as well as TV shows, etc. Four island-wide educational workshops were also held, addressed at three different target groups: career consultants, young students, youth workers and civil servants. The website [www.youthguarantee.org.cy](http://www.youthguarantee.org.cy) was created in order to provide more information on the Project as well as education, training and employment opportunities in Cyprus.

YBC’s partners in 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.



## scheme for the enhancement of youth entrepreneurship

YBC actively supports the Scheme for the Enhancement of Youth Entrepreneurship offered by the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry, by providing information on the Scheme and helping young people between the ages of 20-40 with their application. The aim of the Scheme is to develop, support and encourage entrepreneurship and encourage young people to establish new and sustainable businesses.

The 2nd call of applications closed on April 2nd 2018. The Evaluation Committee held its first meeting in June 2018.

*Student  
empowerment  
summer schools*





# information

## **youth information centres (YIC):**

The main purpose of the Centres is to provide young people with general information on a wide range of youth related issues, while helping them integrate in the society as independent persons.

They also are one-stop shops services to young people:

1. Counselling services such as career advice and guidance, psychological support, support for entrepreneurship, etc.
2. Skill development programs
3. Information on employment, education, training and European programmes
4. Information on European youth policies and opportunities for young people, as YICs are contact points of Eurodesk Cy

There are Youth Information Centres in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaka, Paphos and Agros. In 2018, the YBC opened a new Youth Information Centre in the district of Famagusta, in cooperation with the Municipality of Sotira. Therefore, YICs are currently found in all the districts of government-controlled Cyprus.

YICs operate according to the standards of the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA). You can contact any YIC via email, that can be found on the YBC website as well as via social media and the Cyprus-wide number 77 77 27 57.

In 2018, the YICs organised 83 events on their premises and participated in 24 events, such as festivals, Education fairs, school events and presentations on topics such as Employment, Mobility, Skills Development, Entrepreneurship, Education, Social Media, and European Programmes. More than 4000 people attended the events.



## “student empowerment summer schools”

The Youth Information Centres of Nicosia, Larnaka and Limassol held Student Empowerment Summer Schools for high-school students. The summer schools were held at the YIC premises and lasted for two weeks. 48 students attended the summer schools, participating in many events, workshops, fieldtrips. They developed valuable skills that will help them be better students and become more active citizens.



*Student empowerment  
summer schools*





## EURODESK Cyprus

Eurodesk aims at providing young people and youth workers with information on European policies and opportunities. It provides specialised and accurate information on topics such as work, studies, mobility, volunteering, funding, exchanges, non-formal learning, etc. Eurodesk may be contacted at [eu-ropdeskcy@eurodesk.eu](mailto:eu-ropdeskcy@eurodesk.eu), on the European Youth Portal through the “Ask A Question” service or by calling 22 402613/641. Eurodesk is co-funded by the European Commission and operates in 35 European countries. In Cyprus Eurodesk is managed by the YBC.



## information on opportunities for mobility

In 2018, Eurodesk Cyprus participated in festivals, information events for Erasmus+ National Services, educational fairs, various events organised by youth organizations, universities and other institutions, during which it offered 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 provided information on the new EU initiative “Discover EU” which is directed to 18 year-olds, as well as on the new EU programme “European Solidarity Corps”, where people between 18-30 years old may participate.



## European Campaign «time to move»

“Time to Move” is Eurodesk’s biggest campaign, which is held every October. The campaign entails a wide range of events and activities for young people, which aim at informing them on opportunities for mobility.

Like every year, the campaign was organised by Eurodesk Cyprus and YBC Youth Information Centres, which multiple the Eurodesk programme in Cyprus. Various interactive events were organised, such as a treasure hunt, presentations at schools and universities, etc. Moreover, Eurodesk participated at the Erasmus Festival, which was organised by the two Erasmus+ Services, the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes. In these events, young people learned about the numerous opportunities to travel, participate in an international program and explore Europe.

In the framework of the “Time to Move” Campaign, a national photo competition “M.O.V.E.” was organised, with a view to mobilise young people and enable them to express themselves in an artistic and creative manner. The Competition was held in memory of Thrasivoulos Thrasivoulou, Executive Secretary of the Youth Board of Cyprus.

All the events can be found on the website <http://onek.org.cy/timetomove2018>.



*Photo competition  
“MOVE –  
motivating others  
through voices of  
experience”*





## photo competition “MOVE – motivating others through voices of experience”

In the context of Time to Move Campaign, the YICs organised a national amateur photo competition “Motivating Others through Voices of Experience”. The competition aimed at encouraging young people between 15 and 30 years old, who live in Cyprus, to capture various aspects of their daily life, trips, excursions, challenges, issues of concern, or any other issue they wanted 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 offers European and national information and opportunities that are of interest to young people who are living, learning and working in Europe. It provides information around nine main themes: volunteering, social inclusion, creativity and culture, employment, etc. The Youth Portal is available in 29 languages. The YBC manages the Cyprus-related content.

# counselling services

## career counselling and career management services

Career Counselling and Career Management Services are provided to young people up to 35 years old, aiming to help them take the best possible decisions as it comes to their education and professional development, while also planning their professional career and helping them with job hunting. The Services offer guidance and support, help them develop personal and professional skills and identify and create opportunities. They help them find a job by helping them draft their CVs, look for a job and prepare for a job interview. They encourage them to take entrepreneurial initiatives, inform them about European and local opportunities, etc. In 2018, the Youth Board of Cyprus offered a free career test, while more than 1.600 personal career consultations with young people were conducted. Furthermore, the YBC organised information seminars with Career Counsellors which focused on: applications to public universities and the Pancyprrian exams, preparing a CV, selection of school subjects, future professions, etc.

*“Mikri Arktos”  
psychosocial  
empowerment  
program*





## help line 1410 & e-counselling

Young people may dial 1410 if they wish to get responsible answers on daily life matters, as well as more complex issues such as addictive substances, sexuality issues, eating disorders, etc. The line Counsellors handle all the cases with professionalism, without discrimination and confidentially, while they never ask for personal details. The line operates year-round, from Monday to Sunday and the calls are free.

The website of 1410 is found at [www.onek.org.cy](http://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 a software that supports confidentiality, hence, no one has access to it, apart from the caller and the consultant.

More than 1000 calls were made to the two programmes. The majority of the callers were women and when it comes to age, the majority of callers were teenagers and young people (15-29 years old). Help Line 1410 seems to be well established among school students as a way to acquire information and express concerns. The main topics risen by student callers were related to family relationships, relationships with peers, 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 misbehaviour, the impact of divorce on children), drug-related questions, relationship problems and 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 confidentially speak to a professional counsellor 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 265 calls, while 80% of callers being women. 998 meetings were conducted in 2017 compared with 724 in 2016. More specifically, the meetings in 2017 were as follows: 64,5% personal meeting, 23% parents, 7% couple and 1.5% family meetings (with the presence of both the parents and the children). As it comes to how these cases developed, 55 were interrupted (20%), 85 completed the process (32%) and 125 were in process and to be completed in 2018 (48%). Most cases were related to managing stress and negative feelings (124 cases). The second most popular issue was Parent Counselling (problematic behaviour of children and teenagers), with 118 cases. The third most common issue concerned relationship problems (104 cases). As it comes to demographic data, 54% of people contacted the Limassol-Paphos Complex and 46% contacted 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 at the time of the counselling session. As far as their educational background is concerned, the majority (41.1%) held a higher education degree (3+ years) and 43.4% had a full-time job, while 18,5% stated that they were unemployed.





*“Mikri Arktos”  
psychosocial  
empowerment  
program*

## **“mikri arktos” psychosocial empowerment program**

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

The program is addressed to young individuals, between 16-35 years old as well as groups and organisations.

“Mikri Arktos” organised 15 Group Meetings in 2017 which were attended by 117 people, and 87 one-off activities that were attended by 1405 people. In total, 1582 individuals received services by “Mikri Arktos”, compared with 667 in 2016.

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



# creative activities

## the STEAMers

The YBC's new programme, "the STEAMers" was launched in 2018. The programme addresses children and young people between 6-36 years old and offers workshops in various fields, such as robotics, writing code, film making, photography, graphic design, creative writing, music, drama and art by experienced professional trainers.

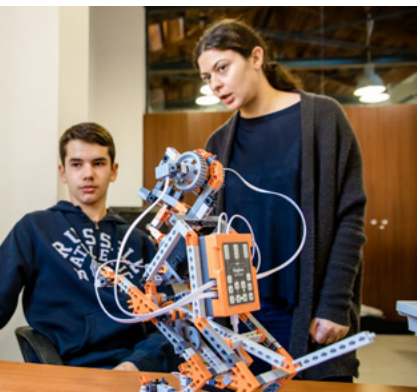
The workshops aim to promote young people's creative development, entertainment and learning, enhance their creativity and communication skills, as well as their personal development and wellbeing. For some of the participants, attending a workshop may even be the activity that will bring them one step closer to formal education, training and employment programmes.

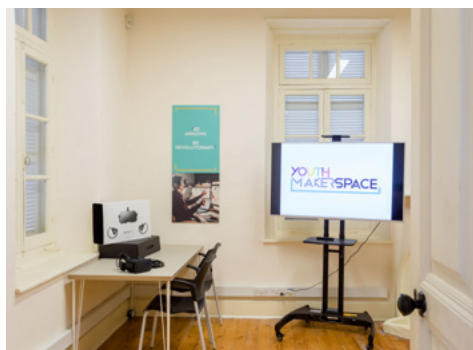
The programme aspires to cultivate critical thinking among young people, contributing to their personal development and wellbeing. At the same time, the workshops enhance young people's intelligence, creativity, as well as other useful skills that will be valuable in their daily lives and career development.



In 2017-2018 (academic year) the following workshops were held:

<b>multicentre</b>	<b>number of workshops</b>	<b>number of participants</b>
Nicosia	27	240
Limassol	5	39
Paphos	45	310







## youth makerspace larnaka

Youth Makerspace Larnaka operates in line with the Makerspace standards developed by university institutions or communities abroad. It provides young people with access to high-quality and state-of-the-art equipment that can be used to develop prototypes and implement their business ideas. "Makerspaces" represent the democratisation of design, mechanization, construction and education.

This new project of the Youth Board of Cyprus was launched on the 10th of March, 2018 and operates in cooperation with Larnaka Municipality.

It is a space where young people can learn about technology, crafts and other creative manufacturing processes and methods, share their knowledge and skills, and apply them in practice. The creative range they cover is huge. The equipment includes 3D printers, laser cutters, drones, VR equipment, robotics, Arduino, raspberry pi and many more. Apart from these, various workshops are held on the premises on how to use the equipment, how to develop ideas, projects and synergies.

Furthermore, the venue hosts the Entrepreneurship Development Program of the Youth Board of Cyprus.

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

In its seven months of operation, the Youth Makerspace has reached 289 members. The premises have been visited by numerous student groups from public and private schools from Larnaka district and beyond, who had the opportunity to take a look at this new venue and its innovative equipment. Last July, the Youth Makerspace was visited by young people participating in the Pancyprian Parents Confederation camp, who attended workshops on Virtual Reality and 3D printing. Numerous other groups visited the premises, such as scouts, students of Open School of Larnaka Municipality. In 2018, 1.139 people from all over Cyprus visited Makerspace.

Every month, the Youth Board of Cyprus organizes workshops and trainings on technology, how to use equipment and other relevant topics led by prominent academics and experts from Cyprus and abroad. The YBC has tried to develop synergies with various stakeholders in an effort to develop the potential of the Makerspace even more. More specifically, the Cyprus Digital Champion and General Director of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Mr. Chimonas, donated eight laptops to the Makerspace, something which initiated a dynamic cooperation between the Makerspace

and the Digital Champion, in an effort to enhance digital skills and entrepreneurship in Cyprus.

The YBC has commissioned the creation of educational material by an academic consortium with experience and expertise on technological education, based on the curriculum and level of each secondary education grade level. This educational material may be offered in the form of workshops to high school students. These workshops can be incorporated in the curriculum of every grade level.

In July 2018, the YBC, in cooperation with the Cyprus Architects Association and the University of Cyprus hosted the Summer Workshop which the Association hold annually for architecture students. The workshop run for 15 days and participants had the opportunity to engage in all stages of the creative process, starting from conceiving the idea, and progressing through digital design and representation tools, material management and finally construction at the selected location. This workshop was a clear example of what Makerspace can offer young people. Young architects were given a problem to solve (create an outdoor construction at Makerspace yard, which will be used by young visitors). In order to come up with solutions/ ideas, they brainstormed, they chose the best idea, they designed it digitally, they wrote a code and they examined how it would look in the space with the help of VR equipment. After that, they printed the model with a 3D printer and then they constructed it at the Makerspace carpentry workshop. Their creation is now exhibited and used by young visitors at the Makerspace yard.





Moreover, six educational workshops were held on how to use the technological equipment available at the venue. In addition, 12 events/workshops were organised by third parties at the Makerspace, which were attended by 505 people. Finally, Makerspace Larnaka was represented at ten educational expos, exhibitions and STEM technology competitions, as well as other activities, with a view to inform people about this new venue and the opportunities it offers young people.





# other benefits for young people

## europaean youth card

The European Youth Card for young people between 13-30 years old, offers benefits and discounts for a number 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.

8500 cards were issued for students and young people in 2018. Based on an agreement between the Youth Board of Cyprus and the Ministry of Defence, around 4500 cards were issued and distributed to young conscripts. Furthermore, in 2018 the Youth Board of Cyprus attended the 34th General Assembly of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) which was held in Lisbon-Cascais in June.

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





## 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 whereas the equipment is available for use by other organisations with a small fee. The equipment can also be provided for the support of events in other locations outside Famagusta Gate Moat.







*Up To You(th)*

## youth festival

For a fourth consecutive year, the Youth Board of Cyprus has organised the Youth Festival, which is not only addressed to young people, but it is also entirely organised by young people who present their talents and work while developing their knowledge and skills, and of course having fun.

The Festival was held on September 29th 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 most vital and optimistic part of the population, while inspiring young people to become more actively engaged in creative, social and artistic activities.

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

More than 70 organisations were hosted and presented their work at the festival and more than 4000 people attended the festival.

## 3rd youth leadership and creativity academy

The YBC organized the 3rd Summer Leadership and Creativity Academy on 8-12 June in Platres village, in Troodos that was attended by 25 participants between 18-30 years old from across Cyprus.

Young participants had the chance to participate in an interesting educational program, which allowed participants to develop their own proposals on how the Platres village could deal with the challenges it is currently facing and thrive in the process.

During the program, and thanks to the effective guidance of their experienced trainers, young people had the opportunity to work in groups and actively engage in collective creative activities. They also enhanced their leadership skills, their collaboration and their proposal skills, thereby boosting their self-confidence.

The programme consisted of various entertaining activities, such as orientation games, board games, memory and imagination games, music events, hiking, etc. All the activities aimed at enhancing critical and creative thinking, self-confidence and team work among the young participants. Young participants discovered their best self, created new friendships and returned home fulfilled, after a structured attempt to improve not only themselves but the community as a whole.











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