

OBJECTIVE 04

To support the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism



MAPPING OF ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN CYPRUS

ERMAN DOLMACI



ABOUT ERMAN DOLMACI

Erman Dolmacı is an activist who completed their education on environmental engineering and sustainable energy systems and is currently continuing their master's studies on atmospheric sciences. Defining themselves as a person who "adores living, learning and questioning", and being ecologically conscious, Dolmacı has been actively working for civil society organizations. They are currently working as a project coordinator for the "Diversity of Colours Project" (LGBTI+ capacity building project), funded by the European Union and carried out by the Queer Cyprus Association.

THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Collection of data on public transportation in Cyprus, from January to March 2018.

Creation of a website on public transportation alternatives in Cyprus.

Creation of the visual identity and promotion of the website.

STORY OF THE ACTION

Through their Grow Civic action, Erman collected information on different transportation options to counter the use of private vehicles in Cyprus. They have done so in an effort to encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation and improve service quality in order to help mitigate traffic density and environmental pollution while ensuring economic and social development. The action dealt with Cyprus in its entirety and also encouraged the communities living in Cyprus to travel within the island. The action mapped alternative public transportation across the island and communicated the findings to the public in the form of a web page in Turkish and English.

"There is insufficient information available on public transportation in the northern part of Cyprus and the existing information cannot be easily accessed in different languages. The information we offer on our web page includes the available public transportation services, and other data improving service quality. For instance, we were aware that some minibus drivers drop off visiting tourists at the wrong stops due to their poor English skills, or that they charge different rates. By offering information on different aspects of public transportation in Cyprus, including rates, travel times and modes of transportation, I believe we enabled the local and foreign population living across the island to have a more reliable and informed transportation experience."

Erman Dolmacı



The web page includes key information on public transportation across the island, carbon footprint calculations and information on disabled-friendly modes of transportation among others.

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

Given its contribution to environmental and economic benefits in the long run and to the creation of a more humane living environment, the action is closely linked to different human rights fields (e.g. environment, health, accessibility). In cooperation with various stakeholders, the action undertook serious attempts to ensure sustainability and urged the relevant duty bearers to make the necessary legal and administrative arrangements regarding transportation issues. In this context, an agreement was reached with the Nicosia local community to ensure that the web page (<http://vircyprus.com/>) will regularly be updated to include the latest information.



"While designing the action, I intended to improve access to information for those who use public transportation and enable them, through the website, to better claim their rights. As it contains information on how people in rural areas are living and traveling, the web page was also designed to create a culture of diversity that incorporates all disadvantaged groups and promotes easy and high-quality transportation across the island. I aspired to defend every person's right to budget-friendly, economical, stress-free and high-quality transportation, so that they can enjoy a clean and healthy environment."

Erman Dolmacı

The accessible design of the web page and its content, based on the voluntary contributions and support provided by different stakeholders, has also enabled best practices sharing to encourage citizen networks and the promotion of volunteerism.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The web page, in its present form, is available in Turkish and in English, the translation of the web page into Greek is in progress. Dolmacı intends to turn the website into a mobile application as well and convert it into an easy-to-download and user-friendly format.

TO FIND MORE ABOUT THE ACTION

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