

# OBJECTIVE 02

To promote human rights and democracy, involving citizens in policy dialogue, design and monitoring

# LEAP2PEAK

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Photo Credit: Leap2Peak



## THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Creation of a new Leap2Peak website.

Organisation of two "Learning by Doing" camps in Risokarpaso/Dipkarpaz in February and May 2017.

Organisation of a social media campaign called "Know Your Rights" with six animated videos about the rights of international university students.

Design and dissemination of the "Know Your Rights" brochures.

## ABOUT LEAP2PEAK

Leap2Peak, created in 2015, is an international learning organization that targets higher education students and recent graduates (including international students) across the island. It focuses on a wide range of topics, including basic skills such as communication and leadership, as well as job-market orientated skills such as CV writing, interview techniques, entrepreneurship, and social entrepreneurship. The main goal of the initiative is to help the students become more employable or enable them to start their own enterprises by providing them with services that were not previously accessible.

## STORY OF THE ACTION

The action focused on supporting international higher education students as they adjust to the local culture, while building their employability and capacity skills to better access the local job market. To this purpose, under their Grow Civic action, they organized "Learning by Doing" camps, created a website for the organization and started a media campaign called "Know Your Rights".

"We organized two 'Learning by Doing' camps in February and May 2017, invited students who are active within the international students' community, and discussed the students' problems at universities located in the northern part of Cyprus. It was designed as a lobbying activity for students, and continued as a campaign called #know\_your\_rights, with six animation videos. The videos were shared on Leap2Peak social media accounts, on our website, and at main student platforms like 'Lefkosh'. Through the activities, we succeeded in reaching more than 400 international students during the 2016/2017 school year."

Marko Gaziuoda

The media campaign was supported by key stakeholders in the Turkish Cypriot community, such as civil society organizations and student platforms. Leap2Peak was able to reach these stakeholders, as well as many international students through the dissemination of the brochure.

One of the most significant achievements of the action was the fact that the participants took the lead and made voluntary contributions to reach a wider audience. According to the beneficiaries, several volunteers from more than five nationalities have voluntarily taken an active role in the "Learning By Doing" camps. Some of the participants have expressed their thoughts about the action:



Photo Credit: Leap2Peak

"We are all different in our own way, and this is what made our journey special: various emotions, stories and personalities. It taught many of us how to care for each other, how to support, and express love!"

Maral Meredova, Turkmenistan

"I learned that life is so simple, yet we make it so complicated! People from different nations coming together and depending on each other made it a great experience."

Tate Tinka Chivasa, Zimbabwe



Photo Credit: Leap2Peak

## RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The main focus of the action was to improve the international higher education students' capacity as rights holders to claim their due. The short videos were produced as advocacy efforts to promote the rights of the international students. The videos, "Know Your Rights", "Right to Accommodation", "Right to Health", "Right to Travel", and "Right to Security" were produced as part of the #know\_your\_rights campaign and shared on many student platforms. They were used to fight misinformation and provide reliable information. The Leap2Peak team held various meetings with the students to not only discover their needs, but also to strengthen their capacity to advocate for their rights.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Leap2Peak inspired many students to form student-based groups and organizations to learn and advocate for their rights. Social inclusion of the international students is still a sensitive subject and is highly ranked in the duty bearers' agenda. Leap2Peak will continue encourage more civil groups to focus on the issue and find ways to address the various problems they may face.

TO FIND  
MORE ABOUT  
THE ACTION



This Project is funded by the European Union.

